



कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद
निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority**
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
APEDA/ORG/2024/Advisory/03
Dated 12th April 2024

Sub: Advisory on verification of ICS office of a grower group – reg

Dear Certification Bodies,

This is in reference to the certification of the grower groups under Chapter 5 of the NPOP.

As per NPOP regulation, the farms of the producers of the grower group should be in geographical proximity. The Grower group will have an Internal Control System (ICS) for implementing the policy and procedures and the requirements of organic certification as per NPOP.

The ICS is required to maintain all documentation at its office including ICS manual, farmer details, internal inspection records, training records, purchase and procurement records etc.

However, it has been observed that many grower groups do not have the ICS office at the location of the ICS (i.e the registered address as per scope certificate) and the certification bodies are not verifying this requirement.

All certification bodies are hereby notified to verify the location of the ICS office at the address mentioned in the scope certificate of the grower group as well as proximity of the location of farmers in the grower group. This should be validated with photographs of the ICS office and location, geo coordinates etc. This will ease transition to the new TraceNet system.

One time provision will be provided for rectification of the same. **All CBs are required to complete the verification process within four weeks of issuance of this advisory.**

APEDA will carry out random checks and strict action will be taken in case of non-compliance observed in this regard.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Saswati Bose
12.04.2024
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General Manager