



Dated-10-02-2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding: Internalizing additional measures for implementation of Risk Assessment

You are aware that, of late European Union states have detected residue of Ethylene oxide and other Pesticides in consignments of Sesame, Soybean, Amaranth, Flaxseed etc. from India. The extent of detection has been unprecedented, denting image of the country.

APEDA has been issuing advisories from time to time to stem the rampant pesticide residue levels. Although we have put in place mandatory testing of risky crop produce even for domestic TC transactions, the measure has not contained the menace of pesticide residues in produce exported to various countries. Therefore, to arrest the incidences of residue detection it has been decided to further implement the following measures effective from 05/02/2021 for covering all our scopes.

Farming

1. Separate audit for Kharif, Rabi and Zaid crops seasons. Estimation of crops only to standing crops.
2. At present crops like Sesame, Cumin, Chili, Soybean, Cotton, Amaranth, Psyllium, Flax Seed, Groundnut, Maize, Multi ingredient processed products/Single ingredient products have been classified as risky crops warranting extra scrutiny of all agronomic practices during the audit process. Operators are advised to keep themselves informed of the advisories issued from competent authority from time to time and take effective precautionary steps in the matter.
3. Crop estimation to cover the crops actually raised and available during the audit
4. Digital (pictorial/video graphic) evidence of procurement process to be maintained at the ICS office for scrutiny by the CB inspectors
5. ICS office to be located in close proximity of the operational area of the area.
6. Farmers to be photographed along with the standing crops to be maintained- at the ICS office
7. Yield estimates and actual yields to be cross checked with local conditions during the farm inspection process. Farm diaries of all farmers to provide this data invariably.
8. Storage period at each farmer store to be documented in respective farm diaries
9. No storage treatments are allowed during any storage at farm or farmers houses
10. Credentials of Transport operators involved in the transportation of produce will be verified during the audit
11. Physical movement of goods to be captured during loading evidencing that the activity has taken place within the jurisdiction of farmer's/ ICS operational areas.

TQ Cert Services Private Limited

(formerly FoodCert India Private Limited)

A wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Projects Limited

Business Address: Quality Services Division, Splendid Tower 6th Floor, H No 1-8-364,437,438 & 445, S P Road Begumpet, Hyderabad -500016, Telangana, India.
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Registered Office: Fourth Floor, Mithona Towers-1, 1-7-80 to 87, Prenderghast Road, Secunderabad-500 003, Telangana, India.

CIN: U74220TG2003PTC040523 Phone :+91-40-6518 1222, Fax:+91-40-66172535

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12. Beside produce, random sampling of soil, will be taken for pesticide testing during the audit. 50% of samples of randomized farmers to comprise soil samples and 50% product samples for Pesticide residue analysis (PRA).

Processing

13. Wherever parallel processing will be carried out, the risk will be categorized as High.
14. Supplier Scope certificate should be valid for the entire certification cycle.
15. Conventional processing documents also will be cross checked during the audits
16. No storage treatment is allowed in processing units. Prior intimation and approval is now made mandatory for treatment of organic produce.
17. Bleed test records to be maintained which will be verified during the audit
18. **E-Way bill will now be made mandatory** for transportation of processed produce
19. Transport documents will be verified with transporter during the audit
20. Maintain photographs for produce along with Transported vehicle. This will be verified during the audit.

Trading with warehouse

21. Supplier Scope certificate should be valid for the entire certification cycle.
22. Compliance to points 18 to 20 are applicable

Wild Collection

23. **Forest permission letter** shall be verified with Forest officer at the time of audit
24. Compliance to points 08 to 11 are applicable
25. Mandatory sample to be drawn for the available certified product during the audit
26. Whenever samples are drawn other than audit period it should bear signature of collector
27. Audit to be scheduled only when the maximum products stock for certification are ready for harvest

Transaction Certificate

28. Moisture and Pesticide testing to be carried out by lab representatives of NABL accredited Lab having scope for all molecules testing including Ethylene oxide
29. Verification of credentials (legal entity, registration certificate) of transport agencies involved in transporting the produce.
30. Video clipping/photos of stock verification to accompany TC application form to validate the various procurement documents on record.
31. Video clipping/photos of stock loading covering the consignment of produce to seller
32. Sample collection from Lot for PRA to be collected by lab representatives and test report to be submitted along with TCs.
33. Mandatory requirements for Lot wise moisture testing for all grains, spices, beverages products (Processed & unprocessed).

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Kindly acknowledge receipt of this communication in token of having meticulous implementation of the aforesaid measures, wherever applicable.

TQCERT reserves the right to cancel the TC if discrepancies are established covering any of the above said measures and appropriate action will be initiated, including recall of produce by the ultimate exporter at the cost and responsibility of the operator who has supplied the produce.

From TQ CERT Services Pvt Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. S. Naidu', with a horizontal line underneath.

P S Naidu
Food Head

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