



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/76/2025

12th August 2025

Addendum

Sub: - Advisory mandatory procedure for Additional Checks for Certification of Organic Cotton Production

Dear Certification Bodies,

This is with reference to the Advisory dated 18th July 2025 regarding mandatory procedure for additional checks for certification of organic cotton production for new/operators in renewal. In this regard, APEDA has received requests from operators and certification bodies regarding its implementation mainly with respect to zoning and renewal processes.

The requests received have been reviewed and accordingly the re-allocation of states and their Certification bodies falling in the Central & East/North-East Zones to adjacent zones in the following manner:

- Madhya Pradesh – West Zone.
- Chhattisgarh – West Zone.
- Odisha – South Zone.

Further, the clarification on the issues raised pertaining to NoC to operators outside zone, cases of renewal etc are given below:

- (a) Advisory dt. 18.07.2025 and the zoning list for cotton are applicable in respect of Cotton Grower Groups.
- (b) CBs must issue NOC to those Cotton Grower Groups located outside their zones before their renewal becomes due (three months before scope expiry). However, there is no compulsion on CBs to wait for the scope of the Grower Group to near expiry for issuance of NOC.
- (c) CBs can issue TC to Operators outside their allocated zones before their renewal is due (three months before scope expiry) subject to due diligences and unannounced inspection in case of perceived risks.
- (d) In cases where scope of a Grower Group is due for expiry and the renewal process has started, but the renewal audit has not been conducted and scope has not been issued, CBs are mandated to implement the requisite checks during the renewal audits as per the Advisory.
- (e) In cases where scope of a Grower Group is due for expiry and the renewal audit has been conducted, but the scope has not been issued, an unannounced audit of the standing crop for additional checks as per advisory must be carried out.
- (f) In case scope has been issued, the unannounced audit of the standing crop to be conducted subsequently.

Saswati Bose
12.08.2025

Dr. Saswati Bose
General Manager

**REVISED ZONE WISE LIST OF CERTIFICATION BODIES UNDER NPOP FOR
CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC COTTON PRODUCTION (as on 06.08.2025)**

Zones	States & UTs	Certification Bodies
North	Haryana, Himachal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Chandigarh, J & K and Ladakh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OneCert International Private Limited, Jaipur, Rajasthan • Uttarakhand State Organic Certification Agency (USOCA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand • Rajasthan State Organic Certification Agency (RSOCA), Jaipur, Rajasthan • Uttar Pradesh State Organic Certification Agency (UPSOCA), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh • Glaze Corporate Services Private Limited, Kota, Rajasthan • MS Agroland Services Private Limited, New Delhi • Krushi Certification Private Limited, Dehradun, Uttarakhand • Shivalik Natural Resources Management Society (SNRMS), Dehradun, Uttarakhand
South	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, A& N Islands, Lakshadweep and Puducherry Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOCERT India Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru, Karnataka • IMO Control Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru, Karnataka • INDOCERT, Ernakulam, Kerala • Lacon Quality Certification Pvt. Ltd. Thiruvalla, Kerala • Indian Society for Certification of Organic Products (ISCOP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu • Aditi Organic Certifications Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru, Karnataka • Tamil Nadu Organic Certification Department (TNOCD), Chennai, Tamil Nadu • Karnataka State Organic Certification Agency (KSOCA), Bengaluru, Karnataka • Telangana State Organic Certification Authority (TGOCA), Hyderabad, Telangana

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eccentric Organic Private Limited, Tiruchirappali, Tamil Nadu • Andhra Pradesh State Organic Products Certification Authority (APSOPCA), Guntur, Andhra Pradesh • GCL International Assessment Private Limited, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu • Odisha State Organic Certification Agency (OSOCA), Bhubaneswar, Odisha
East and North-East	Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, North East (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bihar State Seed and Organic Certification Agency (BSSOCA), Patna, Bihar • Meghalaya State Organic Certification Body, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya
West	Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau Veritas (India) Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai, Maharashtra • CU Inspections India Pvt. Ltd. New Mumbai, Maharashtra • Natural Organic Certification Agro Pvt. Ltd. (NOCA), New Mumbai, Maharashtra • Gujarat Organic Products Certification Agency (GOPCA), Ahmedabad, Gujarat • GreenCert Biosolutions Pvt. Ltd, Pune, Maharashtra • CERT ID India Private Limited, Mumbai, Maharashtra • Getcert Private Limited, Nanded, Maharashtra • Madhya Pradesh State Organic Certification Agency (MPSOCA), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh • Chhattisgarh State Organic Certification Agency (CGOCERT), Raipur, Chhattisgarh • Chhattisgarh Certification Society, India (CGCERT), Raipur, Chhattisgarh



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APEDA-ORG/76/2025
18th July, 2025

**Sub: - Advisory on mandatory procedure for additional checks for Certification of
Organic Cotton Production**

Dear Certification Bodies,

Please find attached mandatory procedure for additional checks for certification of organic cotton production for new/ operators in renewal for necessary compliance.

This issues with the approval of the NAB.

Saswati Bose
18.07.2025

Dr. Saswati Bose
General Manager

**Procedure for Additional Checks for Certification of Organic Cotton
Production for new/ operators in renewal**

1. Objective

To establish a stringent protocol for conducting additional checks for certification of organic cotton production to prevent fraudulent practices and to ensure strict compliance with NPOP regulations.

2. Scope:

This procedure applies to organic cotton production under NPOP.

3. Additional measures and verification checks for new/ operators in renewal

- i. Certification of organic cotton production shall be allowed by certification bodies in their respective designated zones as annexed.
- ii. Before certifying an area for organic production, the certification body shall verify the production of cotton in that area from the concerned district agriculture office(s).
- iii. On confirmation of the same, the certification body shall then conduct an unannounced pre inspection check to verify whether farmers are actually involved in cotton cultivation before registering a cotton project (new/through NoC). Further, the certification body shall check whether BT cotton cultivation is prevalent in that area or not in order to perceive risk.
- iv. During onsite visit, the seeds source shall be verified. The producers are required to provide the seed packets, declare the seed procurement source (to be verified/crosschecked by CB). The CB is also required to collect the seed samples for testing and retain counter sample. In case seed samples are not available, the testing of the standing crop shall necessarily be conducted during the cropping season and growers be intimated accordingly.

- v. For subsequent seasons, the CB has to mandatorily conduct one unannounced inspection of the standing crop for all cotton producers (grower group/individual producers) and collect samples of standing crop for testing. Third party analysis and residue testing to be carried out. **It is clarified that samples collected by the operators themselves and such test reports shall not be taken into consideration.**

It may be noted that in addition to the above, other testing requirements will be as per the perceived risk and requirements under NPOP 8th Edition.

- vi. Mass balance check to be carried out by CB during harvesting season with due diligence.
- vii. In case of detection of severe non compliances, appropriate sanctions shall be imposed by the CB.
- viii. **Submission of consolidated monthly reports:** The certification body shall submit monthly report on certification status of organic cotton operators, inspections, major non compliances, sanctions etc. to the NPOP Secretariat.
