



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)

24<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

**Subject : Advisory on Additional Control Measures to mitigate detection of residues in  
Organic Products**

To All Certification Bodies

In continuation to the Advisory dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 regarding detection of Ethylene oxide (ETO) in Organic shipments followed by the Circular dated 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020 on issuance of Transaction Certificates, it is to update that the ETO detections have been reported in few more Organic products recently. Hence, it is necessary that the risk assessment of organic products need to be expanded by the Certification Bodies to various products and risk categorization needs extreme attention.

ETO detections have been reported mostly in Sesame but also in Flax seed, Amaranth, Psyllium, Caraway, Fenugreek, Quinoa etc. It has been reported by the Certification Bodies that these products are already categorized by them under high risk. In addition, specific surveillance measures are also adopted and reported by the Certification Bodies to ensure that only compliant products are certified and traded as Organic. As detections are still being notified, it is necessary that utmost control measures are applied uniformly by all Certification Bodies with respect to compliance verification, approval of stock and issuance of Transaction Certificate. Hence, the following have been decided :

1. The Certification Bodies shall verify the stock of old crop (2018 & 2019) of Sesame available with the operator and on Tracenet. The transaction of such stock of old crop shall be ceased with immediate effect. The Certification Bodies shall take immediate action to prevent entry of old lot/stock getting into the supply chain as Organic.
2. All the high risks products identified shall subject to mandatory third party sampling and analysis for ETO prior to export. Certification Bodies are to issue Transaction Certificate (Certificate of Inspection) only based on the test report submitted by the exporter. The Certification Bodies shall take necessary steps to collect information from operator on the trade of high risk products in advance in order to carry out the sampling and analysis before physical transfer of the product. The Certification Body shall be responsible to cross verify the product description, Lot Number and other

identification information mentioned in the test report with the product/consignment.

3. Certification Bodies shall verify the records on all kind of sterilization, fumigation etc. adopted by the operators both for conventional and organic products. The Certification Bodies shall verify and document the separation measures adopted by operators with parallel processing.

The Certification Bodies shall take every possible control measures based on the risk assessment procedure while certifying new operators, transferred operators and issuing Transaction Certificates. The Certification Bodies shall also undertake additional surveillance measures through appropriate verification means for approval of stock/batch for issuing Transaction Certificate. The Certification Bodies of the supplier shall also provide any additional information regarding the crop/product if requested by the buyers Certification Body at any stage of handling.

The Certification Bodies shall immediately inform APEDA on detection of ETO reported hereafter on any products certified as Organic.

The Certification Bodies are also required to inform their operators on ETO detections recently reported in organic export consignments.



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