

## **Sub: Timelines for issuance of certificates**

**From:** PVSM Gouri

**Sent:** 02 April 2014 17:10

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**Cc:** Director; Sunil Kumar; Saswati Bose; Reeba Abraham; Man Prakash Vijay

**Subject:** Timelines for issuance of certificates

APEDA/ORG/ADV/205/2014-15/29

Dated: 2nd April, 2014

Dear Certification Bodies,

Kindly refer to our discussions with you during stakeholders/certification bodies consultation meetings regarding the timelines for issuance of scope and renewal of scope certificates of organic operators. We all had agreed to maintain one month timeline for issuance of scope certificate and TCs . The same is under implementation on TRACENET.

However,. It has been observed there are unreasonable delays in issuance of scope certificates even after the registration and inspection of the operators.***(average time for issuance of scope certificates is between 4 months to 3years from date of registration).***

The scopes have been issued with backdates either to reduce the conversion period in case of new operators or the reasons not known in case of renewal of scopes. Discrepancies in the issuance of such late scope certificates has resulted in irregularities in the certification of organic products.

***The explanation given by the CBs several times for the delay in issuance of certificates is due to non payment of audit fees even after many reminders and false commitments from the operator side .Therefore, CBs are advised to address this issue in your contract with the registered operators to avoid such defaults in your NPOP certification programme.***

Regards

Dr. PVSM Gouri

Advisor

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NPOP