

Heavy Metals in Organic Products certified under NPOP- compliance with FSSAI and importing country regulations on ML's Regd.

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Dear Certification Bodies,

APEDA has received representations from organic exporters seeking clarification on detection of heavy metals in organic products as organic products may contain varying levels of certain Heavy Metals as naturally occurring contaminant. It has been brought to our attention that interpretations are being made in the permissible level of Heavy Metals in organic products certified under NPOP.

It may be noted that for products intended for domestic trade within the country, the stakeholders may adhere to the provisions of the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** i.e., **Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins**

and Residues) Regulations, 2011, which prescribe the regulatory limits for contaminants including heavy metals in food products. It is to be ensured that compliance with FSSAI Regulation is mandatory for marketing and distribution of organic products within India.

For export consignments, it is reiterated that certification under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) does not exempt products from food safety regulations of the importing country. Exporters need to be aware of the relevant legislations of the destination markets to ensure compliance with the Maximum Level set for Heavy Metals, for the concerned product, by the importing country.

The Certification Bodies accredited under NPOP are required to take note the above for compliance, while carrying out risk assessment and issuance of Transaction Certificates.

Regards

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