



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
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