	Determination of Certification	Issue No.:01
	Document No.: SNRMS/ORG/NPOP/DC	Revision No:00 Revision Date: 02-02-2026 Issue Date: 02-03-2026

This section establishes the systematic process for determining, granting, maintaining, suspending, or withdrawing certification decisions in compliance with **ISO/IEC 17065:2012** (Clauses 7.4 – 7.6) and the **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), 8th Edition** requirements. The inspection and certification of Operators shall be based on an objective assessment of the relevant factors specified in the NPOP.

1. Principles

- **Impartiality:** Certification decisions are taken objectively, free from conflict of interest, and are strictly separated from inspection and evaluation activities.
- **Competence:** Decisions are made by authorized personnel with the technical competence to evaluate inspection results and determine compliance with NPOP and program requirements.
- **Consistency:** Certification determinations follow documented procedures and apply consistent decision-making criteria across all applicants and scopes.
- **Transparency:** Operators receive formal written communication regarding certification decisions, conditions, corrective actions, and appeals procedures.

Certification Review:

Certification is the final assessment and approval of the review results with regard to an operation's compliance with the applicable standards. Certification is strictly separate from inspection and is always done by the internal certification committee of SNRMS. The following aspects are included in the certification review process:

- Verification of the correct procedures and documents.
- Plausibility check, i.e. assessment of the objectivity and completeness of inspection and review results and the proposed conditions / corrective measures with regard to the identified non-compliances and their severity according to the applicable catalogue of sanctions.
- Depending on whether the certification is initial, renewal, or reinstatement, the corresponding documented procedure is applied.
- Decision on certification is taken by persons other than those who conducted inspection and review of the operators.
- All decisions on certification and corrective actions are subject to an appeals procedure.
- SNRMS is responsible for all decisions taken to its certification program. No outside agency can take certification decisions.
- Certification decisions will be taken after carefully examining the inspection and related documents. It will not only include approval of Operators but also approval of area and products certified, disciplinary measures etc.

Grant of Certification

Granting and denial of certification shall be based on review of inspection reports and decisions of the certification committee.


Procedure:

- Once the inspection report has been received, the reviewer shall review the report as well as the result of any product tests, and any additional information requested. SNRMS shall provide the results of any tests for samples taken by the inspector as well as a copy of the on-site inspection report to the operator.
- If the Organic Management Plan (OMP) and all procedures and activities of the applicant's operation are in compliance with the requirements of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) and SNRMS determines that the applicant has been and is able to operate in accordance with the Organic Management Plan (OMP), then certification may be granted. The certification may include requirements for the correction of minor non-compliance. This minor non-compliance must be verifiable within a time period as a condition of continued certification.
- If SNRMS determines that the certified operation is complying with the National Programme for Organic Production NPOP/Equivalency agreement with the concerned countries, SNRMS shall issue an updated certificate of organic operation. If SNRMS believes that an applicant for certification is not able to comply with the National Programme for Organic Production, SNRMS shall provide a written notification of noncompliance to the applicant. When correction of a noncompliance is not possible, a notification of denial of certification shall be provided.

Certificate:

Certificates shall be given to the operators as per NPOP, who have fulfilled the compliance as mentioned in certification decisions through TRACENET online and the signed copy of the scope certificates with annexure shall be sent to the operators. For those operations which have not been included in Tracenet as of now, manual scopes shall be generated.

Issuance of Scope Certificate:

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- The details of the inspection shall be entered in TRACENET.
- The major Non-Conformities if there shall be closed with proper justifications.
- The minor Non-Conformities or observations may remain open till the renewal inspection and shall be closed at the time of the renewal of the scope certificate.
- The certificate shall be signed by the Authorized Signatory.

Re-Certification (Continuation of Certification):

SNRMS allocates annual inspection before the expiry of the certificate.

To continue certification, a certified operation must pay the certification fees and submit the following information, as applicable to SNRMS:

An updated production or handling Organic Management Plan (OMP) that includes:

- Summary statement, supported by documentation, detailing any deviations from, changes to, modification to, or other amendments made to the previous year's Organic Management Plan (OMP) during the previous year.
- Any additions or deletions to the previous year's Organic Management Plan (OMP), intended to be undertaken in the coming year.
- Any additions or deletions from the information regarding the name of the person for certification, the applicant's business, address and telephone number and when the applicant is a corporation, the name address and number of the person authorized to act on the applicant's behalf.
- An update on the correction of minor non-compliance's previously identified by SNRMS as requiring correction for continued certification.
- Other information as demanded by SNRMS to determine compliance with NPOP.
- Once certified, an operation's organic certification continues in effect until surrendered by that operator, or suspended or revoked by SNRMS. Certification must be renewed annually.

Re-certification (Review and Decision):

SNRMS shall not re-certify the same activity for production, processing and trading units already certified by another SNRMS under NPOP within the validity period of the certificate.

SNRMS shall ensure that operators shall not have multiple certifications for the same scope of activity under different certification bodies under NPOP.

Procedure for Recertification of terminated operators

In cases where certification of an operator has been terminated, the operator can apply for recertification after a period of two years from the date of termination. In such cases, the producers shall not be eligible for reduction in the conversion period upon recertification.

Terminated Operators may apply for fresh registration to SNRMS along with full disclosure of past sanctions including termination and period of termination (as applicable).

SNRMS shall take note of past sanctions and verify the same from the SNRMS who had imposed the sanction on the operator and also seek details of the non-compliances and decision on sanction.

The SNRMS of the sanctioned operator shall provide all the relevant details to SNRMS within a period of 14 working days from the date of receipt of correspondence.

SNRMS will ensure that the required period of sanction (if applicable) has been completed before certifying a terminated operator. Where termination period has not been specified in the sanction, a minimum period of two years shall be completed before the operator is again certified.

SNRMS shall ensure due diligence while certifying such cases and ensure thorough verification & onsite audits that past concerns have been duly addressed. Subsequent to that, the Executive Head of SNRMS will send a request letter on their letterhead to NPOP Secretariat (APEDA) that SNRMS have verified the compliance of the operator and are willing to register and certify the said Operator. Thereafter, the NPOP Secretariat (APEDA) will examine the request received from SNRMS for allowing the operator for fresh registration. The decision shall be made in 2 weeks. The SNRMS will be intimated accordingly by APEDA.


In case of operators where in certification has been terminated twice, such operators, their directors and promoters shall be debarred from organic certification for five years.

In case it is revealed that the operator/Company, its directors and promoters have changed their identity to register by another identity, strict action as deemed fit by NAB shall be taken.

Appeals and Complaints Handling

All operators have the right to appeal certification decisions. SNRMS maintains a documented procedure, available in SNRMS's website to:

- Receive, evaluate, and decide on appeals in a fair and impartial manner.
- Record actions taken and communicate decisions transparently and in writing.

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