
 SNRMS Shivalk Natural Resources Management Society	Policy and Procedure for Independence	Issue No.:01
	Document No.: SNRMS/ORG/NPOP/INP	Revision No:00 Revision Date: 02-02-2026 Issue Date: 02-03-2026

- At all levels of SNRMS, provisions are taken to ensure that independence is maintained and conflict of interest is avoided.
- SNRMS is responsible for decisions relating to its granting, maintaining, extending, suspending, or withdrawing of certification specified in Quality & Operating Manual under which conditions certification may be granted, extended, maintained, suspended or withdrawn.
- SNRMS takes full responsibility for the granting, maintaining, extending, suspending or withdrawing of certification, particularly regarding decisions on certification, considering appeals, and handling complaints and disputes.
- SNRMS neither supply or design products of the type it certifies, nor can it provide products or services that could compromise the confidentiality, objectivity or impartiality of its certification processes. Thus, as such, SNRMS will not provide consultancy services to its applicants or certified operators, pertaining to matters dealing with barriers to certification requested. SNRMS Staff and subcontractors may direct applicants to resources on organic production and handling, and may answer questions regarding how standards are interpreted or applied but should not provide consultancy services to its applicants or certified operators.
- The structure of SNRMS is to give confidence to our operators in our certifications. In particular, we have a documented structure which safeguards impartiality, including provisions to assure the impartiality of our operations, to manage any potential conflict of interest with our staff and contractors and to ensure the objectivity of all our certification activities. The structure of SNRMS is such that commercial or other financial considerations do not prevent the consistent, objective provision of the SNRMS service.
- To ensure an objective review, SNRMS ensures that persons who make certification decisions are different from those who carried out the inspection(s) and review of the program. SNRMS provides only those services as outlined in Scope of Certification.
- SNRMS shall decline to undertake the scope of operation for which SNRMS is not accredited.
- Impartiality and independence of the SNRMS is assured at Strategy and Policy level, Decisions on Certification & review level. This structure where members are chosen to provide a balance of interests where no single interest predominates will be deemed to satisfy this provision.
- SNRMS has well defined organization structure comprising management committee, certification Department, appeal committee, Advisory/Technical committee, and inspection department with well qualified and competent staff.
- SNRMS structure enables the participation of all parties (Advisory/Technical Committee) significantly concerned in the development of technical policies and principles regarding the content and functioning of the NPOP standards. SNRMS structure shall formally establish at the highest level within the organization by means that prevents it being changed in a manner that compromises the safeguarding of impartiality. Any change in structure shall consider advice from the Advisory/Technical/Certification Committee.

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