

ORG-2019-20-000147
24/03/2020

To All Certification Bodies

Due to Corona virus (COVID-19) outbreak in different regions of the states in India, it is known to us that restrictions have been imposed by the Government in travelling and movement to avoid spread of disease. As responsible stakeholder, we may abide the orders issued by the Government from time to time by making alternate options to continue with the daily operations in the certification programme.

As you are aware that the issuance of scope certificates is a time bound activity which starts 90 days in advance of expiry of certificate and further 90 days grace period provision is also available on TraceNet. However, it has been brought to our notice that some of the Certification Bodies are unclear considering the prevailing situation.

In order to ensure that the certification status of any operator shall not be lost due to delay in renewal of scope certificate on TraceNet, an additional grace period of one month will be provided. However, Certification Bodies are required to inform APEDA regarding such operators. Further, to ensure smooth trade of certified organic products, all the Certification Bodies accredited under NPOP and NOP are advised to continue issuance of Provisional Transaction Certificate/Transaction Certificate as per the procedure on TraceNet. It is advised that Certification Bodies shall not compromise on integrity of certified organic products and comply with NPOP and NOP requirements in all their operations. The Certification Bodies may also make adequate arrangements to ensure that work should not get affected at the same time safety and health of officials be taken care of.

The Certification Bodies who have been informed specifically regarding their accreditation renewal beyond 31/03/2020 may proceed with the process as advised individually to them by APEDA.

Yours faithfully,

Signed/-
Dr. Tarun Bajaj
Director-APEDA