

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CERTIFICATION BODIES

The following are the rights and obligation of CBs accredited under USDA NOP

1. The CB shall have an established office for carrying out inspection and certification of organic products of Indian projects as per USDA NOP.
2. The CB shall work as per the guidelines and instructions mentioned in USDA NOP Regulatory Test, NOP Handbook and advisories issued by APEDA from time to time.
3. The CB shall ensure that officials/ staff employed are qualified and have the relevant experience and competence as stipulated in USDA NOP.
4. The CB shall provide all information necessary for evaluation by the Evaluation Committee of its certification performance as well as all documentation of the operations certified as per USDA NOP.
5. The CB shall give full cooperation during the process of evaluation to the Evaluation Committee.
6. The CB shall further make all necessary arrangements and provide all means of information for evaluation during the field evaluation.
7. The CB shall fulfill its inspection, evaluation and certification according to the criteria set in the National Organic Program. In addition the CB may render such other services that are not in contravention with the NPOP & NOP.

8. The CB shall set out its annual charges to the operators for USDA NOP certification to be paid in Indian Rupees in India and shall levy charges to the operators as informed to APEDA.
9. The CB shall submit their report within one month after the evaluation and payments by their clients.
10. The CB is hereby authorized to use the USDA seal and shall verify the requirements on use of USDA seal on products certified as per USDA NOP.
11. The CB shall submit an annual report to APEDA on USDA NOP operations by 31st January every year. The annual report would contain an updated report on the recent developments in the certification programmes such as number of operators certified (under conversion / converted) geographical area of operations, financial turnover, change in personnel, irregularities or infringements found with the operators related to the application of standards, products exported in terms of quantity and value, country of destination.
12. The CB shall also inform APEDA regarding their other operations related to certification as per any other standards which are not under the purview of NPOP & USDA NOP.
13. The CB shall submit the surveillance fee for USDA NOP one month before the evaluation visit of the evaluation committee every year.
14. The CB shall submit the application and the requisite fee for renewal of accreditation for USDA NOP three months before the expiry of the accreditation.

15. The CB shall ensure that the charges should be reasonable and commensurate the services provided.
16. The CB shall verify the operator data entry and provide, on the Tracenet, authentic information related to operators, inspection details, nonconformities, closure of nonconformities, production volume, export quantities in terms of volume and area for issuance of certificate
17. The CB will follow the TRACENET procedures
18. The CB shall establish the procedure for sampling and analysis as per USDA NOP requirements.
19. The CB shall cross check the data of their registered operators on the Tracenet and will be responsible for any false information given by the operator.