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निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products
Export Development Authority**
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

ORG-2015-16-000102
2nd September, 2024

Sub: - Advisory on testing requirements for export of organic products to EU

Dear Certification Bodies,

This is with reference to APEDA's Advisory dated 12th July, 2023 regarding additional requirements for export of organic products to EU. Based on the communication received from the European Commission (EC), the Certification Bodies under NPOP were advised to take at least one representation sample of each consignment of the unprocessed products as listed below:-

Turmeric/curcuma
Sesame seeds
Ginger
Amaranth seeds
Psyllium husk powder
Quinoa seeds
Flax seeds
Moringa
Soya beans
Unprocessed tea leaves
Unprocessed guar gum

However, based on the representation received from the tea exporters that unprocessed tea leaves are not exported, it was informed vide communication dated 5th Sept 2023 that testing of unprocessed tea leaves to be carried out consignment wise only if exported to the EU.

The European Commission (EC) in their response have acknowledged that their request for additional testing have been addressed except for tea. They have Clarified that, while tea is the processed product, the EC have referred specifically to the testing of unprocessed tea leaves. This specification was made specifically because of the importance of testing tea leaves in the field or just after harvest to best ascertain the organic integrity of the production or product. Hence, **EC has asked for testing of unprocessed tea leaves to be carried out for a period of 6 months following the date of issuance of Notification to resume the testing.**

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However, for other products mentioned in APEDA Advisory dated 12th July, 2023, EC has confirmed that mandatory testing is no longer necessary.

Hence, all the Certification Bodies are hereby required to follow the mandatory testing requirements for testing of unprocessed tea leaves in the field or just after harvest and share the testing details on fortnightly basis to APEDA. This must be followed for 6 months from the date of issuance of this Advisory.

Additional testing for rest of the products intimated vide Advisory dated 12th July, 2024 is no longer required. However, testing of high risk products for ETO (Sesame seeds, Ginger, Amaranthus Seeds, Psyllium husk powder, Quinoa seed, Flax Seed) shall continue as per APEDA Advisories dated 24th May, 2021 and 20th July, 2021.

Further, the Competent Authority has kindly considered the requests received from the certification bodies and operators to extend the timeline from 15 days to 30 days for uploading test report on Tracenet for the high risk category (Sesame seeds, Ginger, Amaranthus Seeds, Psyllium husk powder, Quinoa seed, Flax Seed). All Certification bodies are required to maintain the timelines.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Sunita Rai
02/09/2024

(Sunita Rai)
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