

**Procedures for transfer of the Operators of Suspended/Terminated Certification Body under NPOP**

1. After the decision of the NAB/Sub Committee of NAB for suspension/termination of any CB, the information will be hosted on APEDA website for information to all concerned and also on TraceNet home page.
2. The suspended/terminated CB's account will be closed on TraceNet immediately.
3. The concerned CB will expeditiously intimate their operators regarding the sanction and for issuance of NOC.
4. The CB will submit evidence of intimation to APEDA.
5. The CB will be provided limited access for issuance of NOC for shifting of operators to other Certification Bodies.
6. The operators of the suspended/terminated CB are required to apply for No Objection Certificate on TraceNet for transfer to another CB within 30 days, at first instance.
7. The suspended/terminated CB will obtain NOC request/application from the operator and transfer the projects through TraceNet generated NOC to a new CB of the operator's choice within 7 days from the receipt of the application.
- 8. In case of Cotton Grower Groups:**
  - a. It shall be mandatory for all Certification Bodies to follow Advisory dated 18.07.2025 read with advisory dated 12.08.2025 pertaining to additional checks on certification of organic cotton at production level (enclosed herewith), while registering Grower Groups through NOC from suspended / terminated Certification Bodies.**
  - b. Upon receiving NOC request/application from Cotton Grower Group, the suspended/terminated CB shall transfer the projects through TraceNet generated NOC to a new CB of the operator's choice within 7 days from the receipt of the application in line with **Advisories dated 18.07.2025 and 12.08.2025**
9. The new CB will then register the operator only after verification audit, **within 60 days from the issuance of the NOC.**

10. In case of any nonconformities observed in the inspection, CB may decide to accept or reject the new project. The CB will immediately communicate its decision to accept or reject the new project to the concerned Operator and specify reasons in case of rejections.

11. The process of transfer is given below for different types of the operators/scopes.

#### **In case of Grower Group**

- The new Certification Body shall only accept NOC from Grower Groups having Legal Entity as per NPOP 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- The new Certification Body will physically verify the ICS Office location and the existence of farmers practicing organic farming by way of an unannounced inspection.
- The CB will take photographs of ICS office and, farmers audited and also will record geo location as an evidence.
- The designated Inspector will verify the stock physically and take details along with photograph and will take sample for testing in case of high-risk crops
- In light of the recent non-compliances observed in many Grower Groups wherein many farmers in AFL were found deceased or non-existent, CBs shall verify the AFL of the concerned Grower Groups diligently and report the requisite modifications and amendments to APEDA.

#### **In case of Processor**

- The designated Inspector will verify all the details of the unit and will take photographs during the visit
- The new Certification Body will verify the stock ready for Processing & Processed product at the processing unit/ storage before issuance of any Certificate on Tracenet

#### **In case of a Trader**

- After acceptance of NOC, the certification Body will do the physical verification of the stock before issuance of any certificate.
- In case of export consignment ready for shipment
- The new Certification Body after accepting the NOC of the operator will verify the ready consignment for export before issuance of Provisional Transaction Certificate (PTC)

**It is also mandatory for the Certification Body to maintain all documentation related to certification of operators of suspended/terminated Certification Bodies registered through NOC and made them available as and when required for verification.**

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.