

January 17, 2007

Sub : Amendment in Grape RMP – 2007 : Amendment 3

Dear All,

1. You may have already seen the Amendment No. 2 e-mailed on 4th January, 2007 and also hosted on the APEDA website. You are also aware that a web-based software is being introduced from this year for implementation on a 100% basis during the 2007 grape season. This would mean that the entire process right from farm registration → drawal of samples → pesticide residue testing → issue of test reports → consignment creation for Agmark inspection → actual Agmark inspection by laboratories → issue of Agmark inspection reports → issue of Agmark certificates → issue of phyto sanitary certificates for shipment would all have to be carried out through the web-based software only. The objective is to reduce paper work, eliminate typographical calculation errors, minimize repetition of information, introduce complete objectivity to the residue monitoring system and traceability to the extent feasible.

This software has evolved through numerous discussions with the farmers, exporters, laboratories, phyto sanitary departments, State Govts., NRL, etc. and will be finalized within this week. It is extremely user-friendly. APEDA also organized a full demonstration of the software to the farmers, exporters and laboratories on 12th & 13th January 2007, and another one is being organized at Nashik on 27th January 2007. During this week itself, the software will be uploaded on the APEDA website for initial practice sessions by all concerned for a period of one week before it is eventually uploaded for implementation.

2. Now, since the residue analysis report as per Annexure – 12 will be issued through the electronic system, it will no longer be necessary to issue coloured copies of the residue analysis report. However, the laboratories would still ensure that the recipients of the analysis report indicated in para 6.8 of the main RMP document receive the residue analysis report either by e-mail or by physical despatch, as feasible.

3. While submitting the request for Agmark inspection, the information as contained in the revised **ANNEX - "C-1"** (copy enclosed) of Annexure – 14 of the RMP document would also need to be provided by the exporter/shipper to facilitate proper Agmark inspection and transmission of complete inspection report through the software.
4. The revised Annexure – 14 of the RMP document was circulated on 29th December, 2006 and also hosted on the APEDA website as Amendment – 1. Under title 'II. Procedure for obtaining Certificate of Agmark Grading (CAG) for exports', para 12 is amended to read as follows :

“ Each CAG will carry a validity date, which shall be 15 days from the date of issue. Revalidation of the CAG can be done on the request of the C.A. holder in case shipment is delayed beyond 15 days for valid reasons. It will be done after reexamination by the concerned laboratory to ascertain that the consignment is in sound merchantable condition and that there has been no deterioration in the quality.”

5. Since, the entire system would be software driven, the phyto-sanitary certificate can be issued only after the Agmark operation has been completed. It has, therefore, been decided that the following two documents will have to be submitted by the farmers/exporters to a recognized laboratory before the Agmark inspection process is initiated :
 - a) Copy of declaration by farmers (given in Annexure – 5) pertaining to each residue test report.
 - b) Exporters/shippers declaration (given in Annexure – 15) pertaining to each residue test report.

The above two documents will have to be provided by the farmers and exporter/shipper, respectively, to the concerned laboratory along with the other documents while submitting request for Agmark inspection. It will, therefore, no longer be necessary for the farmer/exporter to submit the above two documents, copy of residue analysis report (Annexure – 12) and packhouse recognition certificate to the phyto-sanitary department as explained in para 7.1 of the main RMP document. This also supersedes the contents of para 7.3. However, the responsibility of proving the veracity of the contents of the above documents would still lie with the exporter/shipper. Consequently, the PSC issuing authorities should check only the required documentation under para 7.4.

6. During the meeting in Pune on 12th January 2007, a point was raised by the laboratories that there was a lot of work involved in Agmark inspection and for meeting the objectives, they had also employed a number of technically qualified personnel as per the eligibility requirements specified by DMI (Agmark). It was pointed out that the laboratories should be allowed to charge a fee for the inspection to at least offset their expenditure. After detailed discussions, it was agreed that the laboratories would not charge any AGMARK inspection fee during this season.

7. During the meeting in Pune on 12th & 13th January 2007, it was also pointed out by the laboratories that a number of farmers/exporters do not pay for the residue testing. Some examples were also quoted and we have received written communications as well. Resultantly, the laboratories have to suffer huge losses at the hands of farmers/exporters for no fault of theirs. APEDA has taken note of this serious lapse on the part of some farmers/exporters, in spite of the fact that APEDA had advised that all services should be paid for and nothing should be taken as granted free of cost. While, APEDA would initiate penal action against defaulters, as a step towards improving the situation, it has been decided to include the payment aspects in the software. This would mean that, in case, farmers/exporters do not pay for the residue testing, the laboratories will not be able to process the residue analysis report/consignment creation for AGMARK inspection through the software. Accordingly, the grapes of such farmers/exporters may not get exported. **This may please be taken note of.**

With regards,

S. Dave
Director - APEDA

ANNEX – C-I

To,
The Asstt./Dy. Agricultural Marketing Adviser,

Subject : Request for grant of Certificate of Agmark Grading (CAG) for
consignment of _____ for export.

Sir,
I/We intend to export _____ (name of the
commodity) to _____ (destination). Details of the consignment are
as follows :

1. Laboratory test details for pesticide residues.

Name of the Laboratory Farm Registration No. Test Report No.

2. Packaging details.

Commodity	No. of Boxes Qty. (in each box)	Total Qty. (in MTs)	FOB value (in Rs.)
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I/we intend to get the inspection and grading done through the approved
laboratory of M/s.....

The above mentioned consignment may be inspected at

(a) our approved premises at _____.

OR (b) airport/seaport at _____.

Copies of commercial invoice, residue analysis report of pesticides and
declaration in Annexure 'C-II' are enclosed. D.D. for Rs. _____
towards grading charges is also enclosed.

It is requested that the CAG may be issued.

Yours faithfully,

Dated : _____

(_____)
for M/s.