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Module-4

Inspection and Certification Process



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1. Inspection and Certification agency

Authorization of Inspection and certification agency

- The National Accreditation Body (NAB) is responsible for giving approval on the authorization of an applicant Inspection and Certification Agency. Before approval, the NAB satisfies itself that the applicant Inspection and Certification Agency meets all the requirements necessary for authorization.
- Authorization status is awarded only for the certification of categories of production and processing covered by these Rules.



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On approval given by NAB, the APEDA issues a Certificate of Authorization, containing at least the following details:

- (a) Certificate of Authorization Number
- (b) The name and address of the Inspection and Certification Agency
- (c) The nature of the activities covered
- (d) The date of issue and date of expiry;



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2. Annual Surveillance and Review of Inspection and Certification Agencies

- The Authorized Inspection and Certification Agency submit an annual report covering the turnover (financial and staff), number of projects certified, under certification and products exported in terms of quantity and value to the APEDA.
- The Evaluation Committee (EC) is required to make a review evaluation on the basis of the annual report and recommend measures and action to be taken to the APEDA for placing the same before NAB for appropriate decisions.
- Procedures for the review evaluation shall be normally identical to those of the initial evaluation.



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Depending upon whether the Authorized Inspection and Certification Agency has complied with conditions imposed by the NAB, and the extent and nature of changes made in the Authorized Inspection and Certification Agency's Process, the NAB may take any of the following courses of action:

- (a) Renew the Authorization period if the period has expired.
- (b) Impose new conditions requiring corrective action according to an agreed Time table.
- (c) Extend the authorization period subject to a full re-evaluation during the ensuing 12 month period or shorter;