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Center for Smart Agriculture

Organic Certification and Inspection Systems



Module 4: Inspection and Certification Process
Session 7 : Certification Process

Certification Process



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The Responsible Body and Certification Decisions:

- Certification decisions are not only limited to initial approval of Licensed Operators, but also approval of products, changes in production, disciplinary measures etc.

- The Authorized Inspection and Certification Agencies shall ensure that each decision on certification is taken by person(s) different from those who carried out the inspection or assessment.



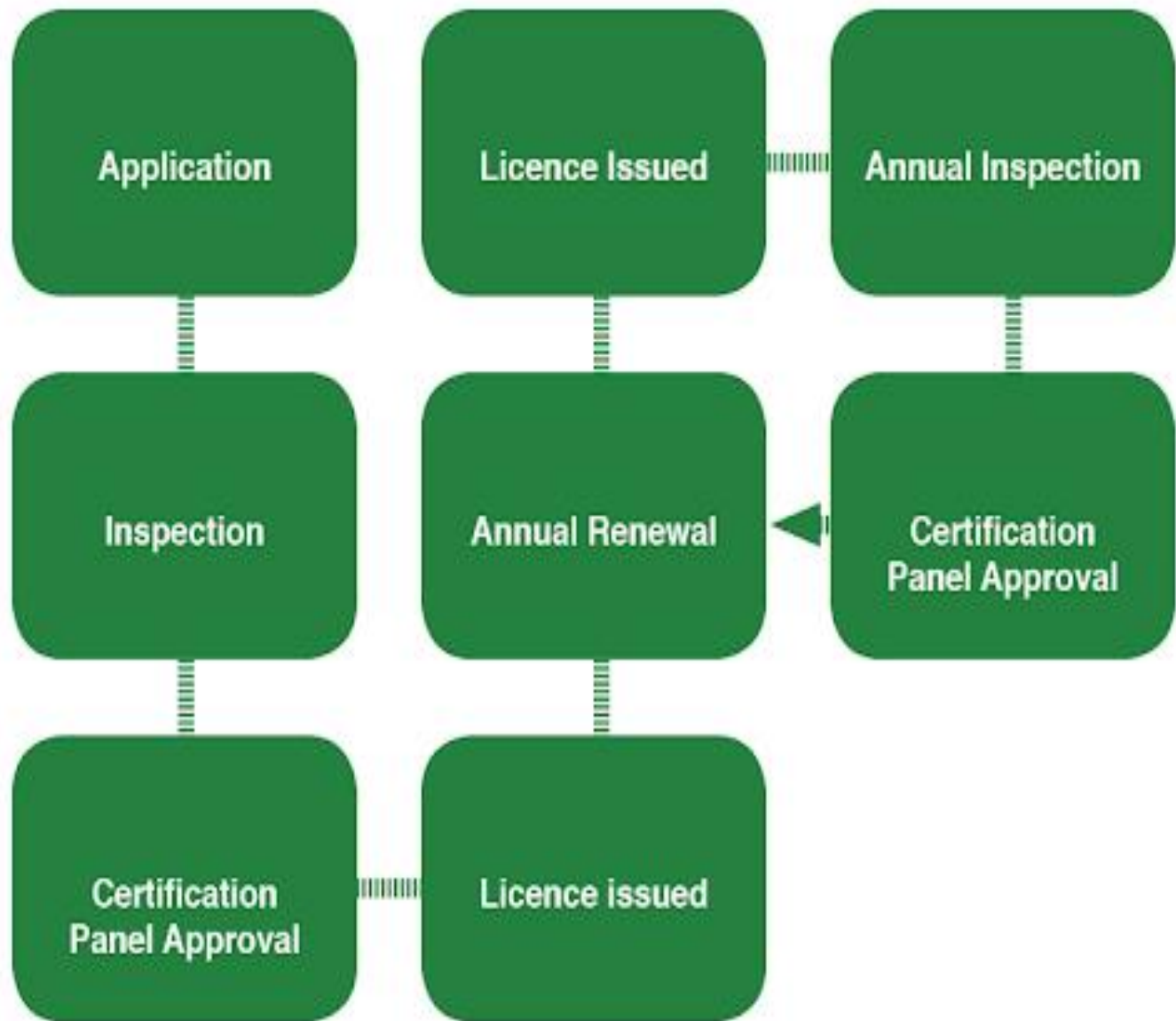
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- ❑ The agency responsible for certification decisions shall reflect a diversity of stakeholders, without any single interest predominating.

- ❑ Where certification decisions are delegated to a small committee or officers, the Authorized Inspection and Certification Agencies shall demonstrate reporting and review functions



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Organic Certification steps by steps, Source: Google Image



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Exceptions

If exceptions are granted, clear criteria and procedures for granting exceptions shall be evolved.

- Exceptions shall be clearly limited in time.
- The rationale for any exception shall be properly recorded.



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The Certification Process

The certification policies and procedures shall be well documented and shall, inter alia, include:

- All procedural steps in processing the application, until final certification;
- That the certification status of all Licensed Operators and their production be indicated throughout the certification process;
- The procedures for extension and updating certification, including certification of individual products;



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- ❑ That the certification decisions be recorded and clearly communicated to the Licensed Operator;
- ❑ That, where certification is denied, the reasons shall be clearly stated;
- ❑ That the Authorized Inspection and Certification Agency shall be able to impose conditions and restrictions.
- ❑ That the criteria for the acceptance of applicants, formerly certified by other certification system shall be documented.



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- That, when asked for by the Licensed Operator, relevant records are released to another Authorized Inspection and Certification Agency.

- That processing of inspection reports and certification decision shall be done in a timely manner.

- That processing of any issue related to violations shall be done with highest priority.



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biocert
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Indian Organic Certification agency logo, Source: Google Image



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Appeals

The Authorized Inspection and Certification Agencies shall have procedures for the consideration of appeals against its decisions.

The Authorized Inspection and Certification Agencies shall:

- Keep a record of all appeals
- Take appropriate follow up actions
- Document the action taken



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THANK YOU