Guidelines for Exporters on Honey Inspection & Quality Control Scheme

0 **INTRODUCTION**

Most of the major importing countries now insist on implementation of food safety systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) rather than consignmentwise inspection. Due to this, Govt. of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry has issued Order/Notification No. 1097 dated 11 May 2001 published in the Gazette of India, Part II, Section 3,Sub Section (ii), dated 4th March wherein honey-processing plants are approved based on their compliance with respect to good hygienic practices and process controls to ensure production of safe & wholesome product. As per this order/notification, EIAs have been designated as competent authority to ensure compliance by the processing plants to the requirements as applicable.

1 **Scope**

These guidelines are meant for information to the exporters regarding the procedure followed by EIA while carrying out inspection of the consignment as well as approval of their plant under the above scheme.

2. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIGNMENTWISE INSPECTION

2.1 **Application for inspection**

- 2.1.1 The exporter seeking inspection of their consignment is requested to submit an application in the format given at **Annexure-I(2)**, in triplicate to the concerned EIA
- 2.1.2 Application shall be accompanied with a copy of the technical specification and of export contract blanking out pricing and other details.
- 2.1.3 Inspection fee as applicable shall also be paid by the applicant in the form of demand draft/cheque drawn in favour of EIA concerned.
- 2.1.4 The application shall be given not less than two days before the inspection is to be carried out if the premises is situated at the same station as office of EIA; and not less than 5 days before the inspection is to be carried out for premises which are not situated at the same station, where the EIA is located.

2.2 **Inspection**

- 2.2.1 The inspection will be carried out by the concerned EIA either at the port of shipment or at the premises of the packer or any other premises where the consignment is offered by the exporter subjected to adequate facilities for the inspection including drawing, preparation and sealing of the samples being provided by the exporter.
- 2.2.2 In addition to this, EIA shall have the right to reassess the quality of the consignment at any place of storage, in transit or at the port before the actual shipment.

2.3 Sampling

- 2.3.1 For the purpose of testing of consignment with reference to the standard specifications laid down in the notification, sample in duplicate will be drawn from each lot offered for inspection by the designated EIA official.
- 2.3.2 Both samples drawn will be sealed in presence of exporter, out of this one sample will be given to the exporter, while the second sample will be sent to EIA laboratory for testing as per the specifications prescribed. Exporter's sample will be analyzed only in case of dispute, if the exporter prefers an appeal to panel of experts against the decision of EIA.

2.4 Certificate of Inspection

- 2.4.1 Based on satisfactory test result of EIA's sample with respect to specification, Certificate of Inspection as per format prescribed at **Annexure-II(2)** will be issued by the EIA with the validity for a period of 45 days.
- 2.4.2 If the sample drawn is found not conforming to the prescribed specification, rejection report will be issued as per the prescribed format given at **Annexure-III(2)**.

2.5 Inspection Fee

Fee at the rate of 0.4% of FOB value subjected to a minimum of Rs.500/- per consignment shall be paid to the concerned EIA in advance by the exporter in the form of demand draft/cheque drawn in favour of EIA concerned.

3.0 PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF HONEY PROCESSING PLANT

- 3.1 The processor seeking approval is required to submit their application in the prescribed format placed at **Annexure-I(3)**, in triplicate, alongwith the necessary documents as per clause 3.1.2 to the concerned EIA in their region.
- 3.1.1 The prescribed fee of Rs.5,000/- for approval shall also be paid by the applicant by way of demand draft/cheque drawn in favour of Export Inspection Agency concerned.
- 3.1.2 Application shall be accompanied by the following documents:
 - ? Factory manual/HACCP manual, if possible including sanitary standard operating procedures and organizational chart.
 - ? Certified copy of the testing report in respect of water used during processing.
 - ? Lay out plan.
 - ? Processed flow chart.
 - ? Certified copy of the document proving legal identity of the applicant plant and scope of their operations
 - ? Certified copy of the lease agreement for the premises of the building where necessary.
 - ? Bio-data of the technologist(s)/supervisor/chemists.
 - ? Certified copy of the consent letter issued by Pollution Control Board.
 - ? Certified copy of the order allotting Importer Exporter Code No. (IEC).

3.2 Processing Application for Approval

- 3.2.1 Application received by EIA will be scrutinized and discrepancies/shortcomings observed communicated to the applicant for rectification.
- 3.2.2 Application, complete in all respects, will be forwarded to Convenor Inter Departmental Panel (IDP) for arranging assessment of establishment. IDP
- 3.2.3 Assessment to judge the adequacy of the facilities available in the processing plant will be carried out by IDP comprising of representatives of APEDA, Ministry of Food Processing Industry & Ministry of Agriculture etc.
- 3.2.4 In case the plant is recommended for approval by the IDP and its recommendation is accepted by the Incharge-EIA, following action will be taken by EIA:
 - a) An approval will be allotted to the unit. The approval number shall be unique for each unit and the numbering system followed will be as given below:

Export Inspection Agency-Bombay Export Inspection Agency-Calcutta Export Inspection Agency-Cochin Export Inspection Agency-Cochin Export Inspection Agency-Delhi Export Inspection Agency-Delhi Export Inspection Agency-Madras Code Allotted Honey-01-001 year of approval Honey-02-001 year of approval Honey-04-001 year of approval Honey-05-001 year of approval

(01-05 is agency code and three digits code is the unique number)

- b) A letter of approval will be issued to the unit as per format given at **Annexure**-II(3) with a copy to EIC with necessary information for issue of certificate of approval as per **Annexure-III(3)**.
- 3.2.5 In case, the IDP does not recommend for approval, the Incharge of the concerned EIA will convey to the applicant within 7 days of the receipt of the IDP report, the reasons for which applicant plant has not been considered fit for approval.

3.3 Marking on Export packages

- 3.3.1 The approval number will be legibly printed/stencilled on all the export packages of honey (reference as per notification).
- 3.3.2 "Q mark" on the packages- following pattern shall be adopted by the plants/processors on the packages:



Note: Export package means the final package produced before the Customs in the India and which is received and checked by the Customs at the importing end.

3.3.3 Other marking as required statutorily in the importing country or by buyers.

3.4 **Validity of Approval**

The validity of Certificate of Approval in respect of the unit will be for a period of one year from the date of issue of letter of approval by the concerned EIA. The processor must apply for renewal at least 60 days before the expiry of approval.

3.5 **Inspection fee.**

A fee at the rate of 0.2% of the free on board (fob) value shall be paid by the processor in the form of demand draft/cheque drawn in favour of EIA concerned.

3.6 Renewal of approval of approved plant

- 3.6.1 The approved plant seeking renewal of approval shall submit application at least before two months of the expiry of earlier approval to concerned EIA in the format prescribed at **Annexure-IV(3)** along with other concerned documents and application fee of Rs. 5,000 by way of demand draft/cheque drawn in favour of EIA concerned.
- 3.6.2 IDP will carry out an assessment of the plant. In case, the plant is recommended for approval, renewal of approval will be conveyed by the concerned EIA to the processor.

3.7 Monitoring by establishment/management

- 3.7.1 It is the primary responsibility of the processor to ensure compliance with the requirements of the notification and to ensure safety and wholesomeness of the product.
- 3.7.2 Processing plants shall exercise all controls required as per notification and maintain records thereof in respect of the following broad areas.
 - ? Hygienic Requirements relating to the premises
 - ? Structure and layouts.
 - ? Pest control (Prevention, extermination, use of chemical).
 - ? Maintenance
 - ? Cleaning and sanitation
 - ? Personnel hygienic
 - ? Rest rooms
 - ? Water management
 - ? Chemicals
 - ? Lighting and ventilation
 - ? Waste disposal including effluent treatment
 - ? Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
- 3.7.3 The processing plant shall ensure compliance with the requirements of clauses 3.7.2 above. The process control and process inspection shall be conducted by the competent

personnel of the plants. Routine laboratory testing of process control samples/finished products samples/ sanitation control samples shall be carried out in the laboratory of the processing plant or in any laboratory approved by the competent authority

- 3.7.4 If any requirement in the Notification is otherwise taken care of for adoption by alternate steps, the same may be approved by the competent authority.
- 3.7.5 Testing of honey honey-processing plant shall exercise suitable control on the quality of incoming raw honey. For the purpose of examination, they shall draw representative sample from each batch and test or arrange to get the honey tested in outside reputed lab for parameters as per the frequency given below:
 - ? Organochlorine compounds including PcBs.-once in a month
 - ? Organ phosphorus compounds- once in a month
 - ? Carbamates and parathyroids- once in a month
 - ? Chemical elements such as Heavy metals and Antibacterial substances, including Sulphonamides and quinolones .— twice in a month
 - ? Other parameters-every batch.
- 3.7.6 Above parameters shall be tested as per methods given in the latest AOAC/Codex/internationally recognised methods.

3.8 **Surveillance**

A three-tier surveillance system is being followed to check compliance of the laid down requirement by the approved unit

3.8.1 Monitoring Visit by EIA

- (a) EIA officials will carry out monitoring visits at a frequency of minimum once in three months depending upon the performance of the units based on
 - report of monitoring visits in the previous year
 - test reports of analysis of samples from previous monitoring visits
 - quality complaints received from importing countries
- (b) The monitoring shall broadly cover all the points given under clause 3.7.2 including
 - Verification of records
 - Verification of process control, sanitation and hygienic practices
 - Verification whether parameters as specified in the notification are within the tolerance limit
 - Draw samples of finished products for ensuring safety and wholesomeness of the product
 - Verification of the results of testing in EIA lab with that of observed by the processing unit

3.8.2 Supervisory Visit by EIA

EIA's official will carry supervisory visit at a frequency of once in six months. The supervisory officer shall verify the documentation and compliance of the products with respect to the requirements of the notification and also quality of monitoring visits

carried out earlier. Specific attention shall be paid to the levels of residues of drugs, pesticides & heavy metals.

3.8.3 Corporate Audit

Corporate Audits are carried out by EIC at frequency of at least once in a year to ensure not only the adequacy of the system to meet its objective but also compliance of the system operated in the field. Under this system, in addition to an audit of EIA's operation, assessment of at least 10% of the approved units is carried out.

3.9 **Issuance of inspection certificate**

The approved processing plants shall issue Certificate of Export worthiness for every export consignment. Blank Certificates books may be obtained from the concerned Export Inspection Agency at a cost of Rs.20/- per set of certificate forms. EIAs will issue blank certificate forms (format attached at **Annexure-II** (2)) to the approved Honey processing plants. The validity of certificate of inspection products will be for 45 days from the date of completion of inspection.

3.10 **Merchant Exporter.**

- 3.10.1 In case of merchant exporter, the approved plant should live column 14 (f.o.b. value) blank. The merchant exporter should fill this column, sign and affix a rubber stamp indicating the name and address of the exporting firm. It is essential that the name and address of exporter placed in column 14 should tally with the information given under column 1.
- 3.10.2 In case approved plant is placing value at which the material has been supplied to the merchant exporter under column 14 at the time of issuance of certificate of inspection, the processor shall also stamp the following on the original as well as copies of the certificate of inspection. Thereafter, the merchant exporter shall mention the correct FOB value on the basis of which the EIA will charge the monitoring fees

"For any upward revision in the FOB value, the Customs may advice the Exporter to get the amendment done from the nearest office of Export Inspection Agency on payment of Additional Inspection Fees."

3.10.3 The merchant-exporter shall also pay inspection fee @ 0.2% of the FOB value in the form of demand draft/cheque drawn in favour of EIA concerned.

3.11 **Payment of Monitoring Fee to EIAs**

3.11.1 Each approved plant must have a passbook system operating with the nearest office of EIA. No blank form certificate of inspection shall be issued to the approved plant unless there is a positive balance in the passbook account of the processing unit.

3.11.2 As and when certificate of inspection is issued, the approved plant may itself debit the monitoring fee in its pass book and enter the balance credit on the third copy before forwarding it to the nearest office of EIA.

3.12 Issue of Health Certificate

The health certificate in the format given at **Annexure-V** (3) or any other format required by the health authority of importing country will be issued by EIA on request by the processor subject to the submission of the following documents

- ? Copy of the Certificate of Inspection for the concerned consignment issued by the processor
- ? Testing data of the residues of the pesticides, drugs and heavy metals for the period of production of the consignment
- ? Laboratory test report for the additional parameters to be indicated in the health certificate clearing indicating about compliance of the consignment as per the requirement of importing country

A fee of Rs. 100/- is being charged for each health certificate.

3.13 Appeal

Any exporter aggrieved by any decision of the EIA may, within 10 days of the receipt of the communication such decision, prefer an appeal to Director (I&QC), EIC. The appeal will be referred to a Panel set up by the Government for the purpose and will be disposed of within 15 days from its receipt. The decision of the Panel in such appeal shall be final.

APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION

Exporter's Name Address		1	Invoice No. & Date	10	Exporter's Ref.	11
			Buyer's Order No. & Da	ite		12
			To The	0.1.11		13
Manufacturer's Name & Address		2		(Name & Address	of the Inspection Authority)	
			Please inspect the o	consignment and iss	sue a Certificate of inspect	ion under the
					Act. A crossed	cheque for
Details of the Manufacturer's Seal, if any		3		pection fee/Please	debit our Account	
			Dete		Simulation of S	F
			Date		Signature of I	±xporter
Inspection required on 4	Weekly Holiday	5	Address where consigning	ment is to be inspect	ed	14
Vessel/Flight No. 6	Port of Loading	7	_			
Probable Date of Landing 8	Date of Sealing/Flight	9				
Mark & Nos. 15 No. & Kind of Pk As declared	ggs. 16 Description of Good	ds (*)	17	Quantity 18	FOB Value (in Rs.)	19
ris decided						
Technical requirements including specificati	ons/approved samples with its characte	eristics a	s stipulated in the export con	ntract.		20
Other Relevant Information						21
Other Relevant information						21
Declarations: Certified that the goods menticapplicable to them under the					ol/inspection	22
Certified that the goods have been offered pr defects as pointed out earlier have been duly	eviously for inspection vide intimation				and the	
		ahar: 1		Q!	P. Doto	_
Certified that no additional technical or qualistipulated by the overseas buyer.	ity requirements other than mentioned	above h	ave been	Signature &	х рате	
(*) Description should include grade, size	and brand, if any. @ As motor car part	s, Com	ponents and accessories are	covered under statut	ory preshipment inspection.	exporter in this
case would need to prefix the description of						

CERTIFICATION OF INSPECTION/EXPORT

Exporter's Name Addres	S	1	Invoice No. & Date			6
			Buyer's Order No. & Da	ate		7
Manufacturer's Name &	Address	2				8
Wandracturer S Ivanie &	Address	2	EX	XPORT INSPEC	ΓΙΟΝ AGENCY-	
			CALCUTTA/COCHIN/DELHI/MUMBAI/MADRAS (Ministry of Commerce) Government of India Address of the concerned EIA.			
Details of the Manufactu	rer's Seal, if any	3				
Detail of Seal of Inspect	ion authority, if any	4	Valid upto and include	ding		
Specification Reference		5	Certificate No.			9
Mark & Nos. 10	No. & Kind of Pkgs. 11	Description of Goods (*)	12	Quality 13	FOB Value (in Rs.)	14
Remarks, if any	Stamp for FC	DB Revision		<u> </u>		15
** CERTIFICATION U	NDER INSPECTION SYSTEM					16
It is hereby declared that Honey Export (Quality C	the consignment as per details giv Control and Inspection) Rules 200	ven above has been inspected as r 2.	equired under the	SEAL OF THE	E ISSUING AUTHORITY	
It satisfies the conditions	as applicable to it and is certified	export worthy.				
Date of inspection						
	or					•
**CERTIFICATION UNDER IN PROCESS QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM It is hereby certified, on the basis of controls carried out, that the commodities as per detail specifications prescribed under the Honey Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules 2				Signature Name		
					ccordance with the standard	
					Date	

CERTIFICATE OF REJECTION EXPORT INSPECTION AGENCY _____

NO. EIA/

Note: Seals if any affixed in the consignment may be returned to this office immediately.

FORMAT FOR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF HONEY PROCESSING PLANT

То		
The Joint Director-in-charge,		

Sir,

Please carry out the assessment of our plant as required under the Export of Honey (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules 2002 for processing Honey for export. We undertake that our plant meets the requirement stipulated in Export of Honey (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2002.

for Rs. 5000.00 towards the application fee. Further to this, the copy of the following documents are also enclosed for consideration.

- 1. Factory manual/HACCP manual giving details of the following
 - Hygienic Requirements relating to the premises
 - Layouts plan

Export Inspection Agency –

- Organisational chart
- Pest control (Prevention, extermination, use of chemical).
- Maintenance
- Cleaning and sanitation
- Personnel hygienic
- Rest rooms
- Water management
- Chemicals
- Lighting and ventilation
- Waste disposal including effluent treatment
- Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)
- 2. Testing report in respect of water used during processing
- 3 Document providing legal identity of the plant and scope of operation
- 4 Lease agreement for the premises on lease by the applicant
- 5 List of the technical staff employed alongwith their qualification and area of experience

	6	In house-lab facilities (please indicate the test carried out along with equipments and method used for the same		
	7	Copy of the letter issued by Pollution Control Board		
	8	Other allotting Importer and Exporter Code No. (IEC)		
	9	Technical specifications of the product		
	10	O Approval required for export to (countries)		
	11	1 Any complaints received from importing country		
Th	anki	king you,		
		Yours	faithfully,	
		Signa	ture:	
		Name	: :	
		Desig	gnation	
	2			
		of enclosures:		
Da	te:			
Pla	ce:	::		

FORMAT OF LETTER OF APPROVAL TO THE UNIT

Letter	: No.	Dated
То		
M/s		
Sub:		
Ref:		
Sir,		
your e Expor the re on (Date)	establishment for processing and rt of Honey (Quality Control, In eport of Assessment of your 	No
1.	Name & Address of the estab	lishment:
	a) Address of the establisb) Address of the Regd. 0	
2. 3.	Approval No. Scope of approval (Items cove	ered)
shall be		olishment is Honey This approval number out packages of Honey for which approval is granted and also
		, come under the purview of monitoring by EIA-Honey (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring)

You should ensure that adequate balance is always maintained in your deposit account for payment of monitoring fee and the two copies of the "Certificate of Export" is submitted to this office within a month's time on a regular basis for debiting of the required monitoring fee.

Rules, 2002. You are advised to adopt **Own Checks** as per the requirement of the

notification.

The validity of inspection certificate issued by the establishment shall be 45 days from the date of issuance.

You should apply for fresh approval at least 60 days advance from the date of expiry of approval.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

Joint Director

CC:

- 1. Director (I&QC), EIC, New Delhi
- 2. Joint Director I/c, EIA-Bombay/Calcutta/Cochin/Delhi/Madras

EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL OF INDIA

Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt. of India Certificate of Approval

	(Name of the Plant)
having their registered office at	
(A	ddress of the registered office)
is hereby approved /granted rea	newal of approval for a period of one year
valid upto and including	under Approval
for processing of	
for export	(Scope of Approval)
in its plant situated at	
	(Location of the Plant)

Seal of EIC Signature:

Name: Ms Shashi Sareen

Place: New Delhi

Date: Designation: Director (I

&QC)

New Delhi, YMCA Building, 3rd Floor, 1 Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001 Tel:0091-11-3748188, 3748189, Fax: 0091-11-3748024

E-mail: eic@ndf.vsnl.net.in

FORMAT FOR APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF APPROVAL OF ESTABLISHMENT

To

The Joint Director-In-charge, Export Inspection Agency-Bombay/ Calcutta/Cochin/Delhi/Madras

Sir,

- 1. Approval no
- 2. Volume of Export during the last year.
- 3. Annual production during the last year.
- 4. Fee paid to EIA during the last year
- 5. No. of complaints from importing country during last one year
 - ? If yes, attach details.
- 6. Recognition during past year from every Government bodies.
 - ? DGFT code no.
 - ? APEDA registration no.
- 7. Details of change in management, if any
- 8. Name of Head of the Organization
- 9. Water potability certificate no. (attach copy)
- 10. Copy of HACCP manual if revised
- 11. Layout changes in past one year
- 12. Sectional facilities/equipment in past one year
 - ? Raw materials procurement facilities
 - ? Processing
 - ? Packaging
 - ? Storage
 - ? Transportation
 - ? On floor and lab. Facilities
- 13. Any other relevant information

It is hereby certified that the aforesaid information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Signature of the Head of the Organization Along with seal of the Company

Place: Date :

Book No.... HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Sl. No.

For Honey intended for export

Country of despatch: India

Competent Authority: Export Inspection Agency-Bombay/Calcutta/Cochin/Delhi/Madras

Reference No. of export certificate (issued by Processing Plants):

1. Details identifying Honey

Description

Quantity

Type of Packaging

No. of packages

Temperature required during storage and transport

Manufacturing Date

Expiry Date

2. **Provenance of Honey**

Address(s) and number(s) of preparation or processing plant(s) authorised for exports by the competent authority

Approval No. of the plant(s)

3. **Destination of the Honey**

Honey is to be despatched	
From	(Place of despatch)
To	(country and place of destination)

By the following means of transport

Name of address of consignor

Name of consignee and address at place of destination

LC Details

4. Health Attestation

It is hereby certified that Honey described above have been handled, processed, stored and transported under hygienic conditions as laid down in the Export of Honey (Quality Control, Inspection & Monitoring) Rules, 2002 and found conforming to laid down standards and fit for human consumption and the plant, where the milk products have been processed, is approved and regularly monitored by the Export Inspection Agency (Competent Authority)

Place of issue: Signature of authorized officer

Date of issue Name:

Designation

Seal