

A Note on Horticulture Produce Pack Houses

- Horticulture Produce Packhouses are recognized by APEDA for export of fresh fruits and vegetables with a specific reference to European Countries.
- Export of fresh fruits and vegetables to European Countries is allowed only from the APEDA recognized Packhouses.
- Export of Mangoes to USA, Japan, China, South Korea, New Zealand, Chile, etc. is allowed from the APEDA recognized packhouses as per importing country's requirements.
- Export of fresh fruits and vegetables to countries other than Europe is allowed from any Packhouses/godowns/units/establishment and other facilities of exporters and service providers. The fresh fruits and vegetables sourced from non-registered farms can also be exported to countries other than Europe.
- The detailed procedure for recognition of Horticulture Produce Packhouse is given in APEDA Website which is revised based on requirements of the importing countries from time to time.
- The fee for applying in prescribed format for recognition of Horticulture Produce Packhouse is Rs. 10,000/- plus 18% GST in favour of APEDA, New Delhi in the form of Demand Draft.
- All applications complete in all respects are required to be submitted to nearest APEDA Regional Offices where the packhouse is existing. Regional Offices scrutinize the documents for their completeness and forwards the application to Head Office for further process.
- The Packhouses are required to be approved by National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). NPPO approves Packhouses jointly inspected by APEDA and NPPO. In case the packhouse is NPPO approved APEDA recognizes automatically.
- Inspection for recognition of applicant packhouse is carried out jointly by a committee consisting of APEDA, NPPO, DMI and State Government official.
- Recognition to qualifying applicant is granted for a period of three years by APEDA with periodic/annual/surprise inspection carried out by NPPO/APEDA, in case the packhouse is processing fresh fruits and vegetables for exports to European countries.
- In case the Packhouse is not approved by NPPO following documents may be attached with the application to APEDA for recognition:
 - ❖ Copy of permission/license from the District Industries Centre/State Industrial Approvals/Gram Panchayat/appropriate local authority approval to run the pack house/cold rooms etc.

- ❖ Detailed lay out drawing of the pack house premises duly authenticated by a Chartered Engineer/Civil Architect.
- ❖ Detailed List of machinery and equipment including reefer/insulated vehicles as per actual status.
- ❖ Copies of relevant documents as per applicability, such as Lease deed, partnership deed, Articles and Memorandum of Association, etc.
- ❖ Copy of quality and maintenance manuals and procedures providing details (names, list of duties assigned and technical competence of Quality control managers/supervisors), the Internal Quality Control System, whether inhouse or outsourced. If HACCP/ISO/BRC is not implemented, the in-house quality manual/SOP should be maintained and submitted.
- ❖ Copy of HACCP/ISO/BRC or any other relevant food safety management system certificate, if any, along with food safety manuals and procedures.
- ❖ List of farmers with their complete address and contact details, along with the copy of agreement entered into with them by the pack house (in case of GAP).
- ❖ Copy of Standard Operating Procedures of the applicant Pack House.
- ❖ Latest Medical Test Reports/Health Records (including pathological reports if any) of the workers engaged by the Pack House. If at the time of application/inspection the pack house has not engaged workers, a declaration should be submitted that once the workers are engaged prior to commencement of operational season, the required documents/information would be submitted.
- ❖ Record of training provided to workers in their respective areas of responsibility such as operational areas for workers and quality maintenance and documentation record keeping of concerned supervisory/managerial officials.
- ❖ Details of traceability and product recall procedures followed and maintained by the Pack House.
- ❖ Confirmation and details about the location and dimensions of the Quarantine room in case the packhouse handles fresh fruits and vegetables for exports to European countries.
- ❖ Details of quarantine area/laboratory with equipment available in case the packhouse handles fresh fruits and vegetables for exports to European countries.
- ❖ Details and dimension of finished product stacking area at the packhouse.
- ❖ Details, number and capacities of (a) Pre cooling chambers (b) Cold Stores (c) processing hall (d) Packaging (e) Material handling equipment (f) Reefer vans etc.

- ❖ Calibration records of various equipments including refrigeration equipment.
 - ❖ Records of pest/rodent control with copies of arrangement with relevant agencies.
 - ❖ Undertaking regarding adhering to respective environment/pollution control conditions.
 - ❖ Submission of all other requisite information and packhouse data in prescribed formats.
- In case the packhouse intends to handle mangoes for exports to Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, etc. details of Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT) facility; in case of China details of hot water dip treatment and for USA Irradiation facility details.
 - The packhouse flow has to be unidirectional; an indicative flow chart is given in the packhouse recognition scheme.
 - The pack houses will be responsible to maintain the backward traceability information of the consignment while filing the application for PSC through the web based Plant Quarantine Information System (PQIS) by the exporter where history of the case is retrievable. A unique registration number generated for each consignment and printed on the PSC will be source of document traceability for the consignment.
 - The packhouse will ensure procurement of fruits and vegetables only from the registered farmers and the list of such farmers will be maintained for records.
 - The packhouse will maintain general hygiene and cleanliness, free from cracks and crevices in floors and walls, cobwebs etc. on walls to avoid shelter to harmful pests and apply prophylactic treatment in and around the pack house, periodically to prevent infestation/re-infestation during all steps of the sorting/grading/packing processes.
 - The packhouse will provide exclusive area for plant quarantine inspection, proper inspection table with sufficient light and magnifier, possess required equipment's/items as listed by NPPO, separate storage area for finally packed and inspected consignments, install insect proof net/wire mesh on the windows and other opening in the pack house, traps for fruit fly, white fly and thrips. All the traps must be numbered and their records to be maintained with periodic observations for insects catch to be recorded in writing.
 - As far as possible, packing boxes shall have insect proof mesh on the aeration holes to prevent cross infestation. The finally packed boxes after inspection shall be pasted with a sticker/stamp "Plant Quarantine Inspected" after the inspection. The pack house will provide such sticker seal and vehicle seal duly numbered to be monitored by PSC issuing authority.
 - The packhouse will ensure that all the requisite registers are maintained viz. commodity inflow register containing details of source material, preliminary inspection register, insect monitoring/trap register, general hygiene register, commodity rejection

register, consignment sealing register, vehicle cleanliness/seal register, commodity outflow register.

- The packhouse will arrange all the signage/display material particularly the commodities being handled in the pack house and related pests/damage signs.
- The packhouse will declare in writing the capacity/quantum of commodity that can be handled through the pack house per working day such as grading, sorting, packing and PQ inspection.
- The packhouse will ensure cleanliness/general hygiene of the vehicle used for transporting the certified material and maintain record and disposal of infested/infected/left over material after inspection of each consignment/lot.
- The packhouse will have a master register wherein list of all documentation/registers is mentioned, all the personals are well informed/trained about the activities of the pack house and their responsibilities along with maintenance of relevant documentation.
- The semi-skilled labourers engaged by the pack house in sorting/grading and packing of the fruits and vegetables will be trained on symptoms/damage signs of major pests of the commodities processed by the pack house.
- The respective department of State Government will register farmers/farms intended to export fresh vegetables and fruits to European countries on the request of the farmer or exporter. The registration of the farm will be for one crop season/one year.
- State Government will monitor status of pests and diseases in the registered farms on fortnightly basis and ensure that their record is maintained at the registered farm along with the record of the control measures/plant protection measures.
- State Government will advise appropriate plant protection measures for control of pests and diseases specially the pests of concerns to European Countries and maintain, monitor records at farm level on the management practices of the crop from sowing to harvesting, organize training of the approved farmers on production of pest free crops especially management of pests concerns of European Countries.
- State Government will ensure availability of POP/IPM/GAP inputs e.g. light/sticky/pheromone traps, tricho cards, bio-pesticides, etc. to the registered farmers.
- Exporter will request State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture for registration of a farmer/farm and provide information to the State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture about the farmers/farms to be registered, crops grown, area/location of the farm and tentative production during the crop season and procure the fresh fruits and vegetables from the registered farmers only.
- Exporter will provide technical support to the registered farmers so as to ensure procurement of pest free produce for export, provide information related to each consignment with registered farm number to the packhouse and ensure safe transport

of the produce from farm to the pack house without mixing with produce of unregistered farms.

- Farmer will request State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture for registration of the farm intending export to European countries, maintain status of pests and diseases in the registered farms on fortnightly basis along with the record of the control measures/ plant protection measures undertaken during the crops season.
- Farmer will maintain the records of each crop in the registered farm on the management practices from sowing to harvesting; follow the advice from State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture or technical support from exporter on pest management practices, waiting period for pesticides etc.
- Due diligence with the compliance requirements of each importing country for fresh fruits and vegetables including mangoes lies with the packhouse and exporter.
- Copy of Procedure for recognition of Horticulture Produce Packhouse for exports along with the SOP issued by NPPO together with formats, checklists, etc. is attached. The packhouse applicants and exporters are required to obtain an updated copy from time to time for compliance.
- Copies of MIDH, NHB, NCDC guidelines related to development of horticulture sector including cold storages and packhouses together with specifications and rate of eligible subsidy under Central Sector Schemes are attached for reference.
- APEDA also follows the guidelines prescribed by MIDH, NHB and NCDC for financial assistance to its exporters for setting up/upgradation of horticulture packhouses.
- The detailed guidelines of APEDA's financial assistance to registered exporters (manufacturer and merchant-cum-manufacturer) are attached for reference. The scheme is not available to the merchant exporters.
- APEDA provides financial assistance under scheme component 1(a, b and c) to registered exporters for setting up of Integrated Pack House and processing facilities for addressing missing gaps, purchase of insulated, reefer transport/mobile pre-cooling units and cable handling system for banana and other crops upto Rs. 2 crores or 40% whichever is less.
- There are no official consultants/agencies empanelled by APEDA, MIDH, NHB and NCDC to implement the scheme guidelines. These offices can be directly approached by start-ups/entrepreneurs and existing beneficiaries for availing the assistance without a mediator.