

## **Agmark Grading Certificate procedure for export of fresh fruits and vegetables to European countries**

- AGMARK is a certification mark for agricultural produce, assuring that they conform to a grade standard notified by Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), under Agricultural Produce (Grading Marking) Act, 1937. These standards differentiate between quality and 2-3 grades are prescribed for each commodity. Till date, grade standards for 222 agricultural commodities have been notified. These include fruits, Vegetables, cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable oils, ghee, spices, honey, creamery butter, wheat, atta, besan, etc.
- While the certification scheme is essentially voluntary, Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sale) Regulations 2011 have prescribed mandatory certification under AGMARK for certain products viz. Blended Edible Vegetable Oil, Fat Spread. In case of Til Oil, Carbia Callosa, Honey dew, Tea and Ghee FSSAI has prescribed few conditional restrictions.
- Persons desirous of grading and certifying a notified agricultural commodity under Agmark can apply to the nearest field office of the DMI. The details are available at [www.dmi.gov.in](http://www.dmi.gov.in) portal under AGMARK icon.
- European Commission, vide Notification (EC) No 1580/2007 dated 21 December 2007 (attached) approved export of fresh fruits and vegetables from India subject to issuance of conformity to the marketing standards by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.
- Agmark grading is voluntary for domestic purposes and mandatory for export of fresh fruits and vegetables to European countries.
- DMI so far has notified standards for 60 potential fresh fruits and vegetable for exports from India to EU countries which are notified under Agmark Act.
- Under Agmark Act, DMI has authorized commercial food testing laboratories to issue Certificate of Agmark Grading (CAG) at very nominal fee @ 0.1% of FOB value subject to a minimum of Rs. 200/- per consignment, e.g. to calculate the grading fee for export of fresh grapes for the year 2022-23 the FOB has been fixed Rs. 75/- per kg. The CAG grading fee comes to Rs. 1200-1500 (approx.) per container.

- Existing and new exporters may verify authorization status of the laboratory for carrying out Agmark Grading.
- The grading fee is collected by an authorized commercial food testing laboratory and consolidated amount is paid to DMI by the authorized laboratory.
- Detailed procedure for issuance of CAG for export of fresh fruits and vegetables from India to EU countries such as fresh grapes, onion and pomegranates are under implementation and attached.
- The consolidated list of notified standards for fresh fruits and vegetables are attached.
- Other than European countries no other importing countries are demanding a formal grading certificate, however, the exporters are required to declare grade of the fruits and vegetables for export to any country hence advised to follow the grading process.

**Document Source:** Trade Notices/Advisories/Export Procedures issued by APEDA/DMI from time to time to facilitate exports

**Link:** [www.dmi.gov.in](http://www.dmi.gov.in) , [www.apeda.gov.in](http://www.apeda.gov.in)