

(Unofficial)

Department of Agriculture Notification

Re; Criteria, Procedures and Conditions for the Registration of Certifying Body for the Plant Products  
Manufacturer B.E. 2558 (A.D. 2015)

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The Cabinet Minister has approved measures to review the roles and missions of the government agencies under Article 33 of the Royal Decree on Criteria and Procedure for the Good Governance of Political Affairs B.E. 2546 (2003) to amend the roles and missions of the public sector, reduce duplication of actions, improve procedures to increase service value, leading to efficient service options, and change the role of the government sector as regulator and supervision, thereby transferring the task of inspection and certification of quality standards of the government agencies to the private sector or other sectors to act on its behalf. In order to ensure the efficient implementation of such resolutions, it is desirable to establish the criteria, procedure and conditions for the registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer in order to conduct the assessment and certification of the plant products manufacturer in accordance with the Department of Agriculture to serve as the inspector and certify for the Good Manufacturing Practice system under the Thai Agricultural Standard, the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture therefore issued the following notifications.

Item 1: This Notification shall be called the “Department of Agriculture Notification Re : Criteria, Procedures and Conditions for the Registration of Certifying Body for the Plant Products Manufacturer B.E. 2558 (A.D. 2015)”.

Item 2 This Notification shall be effective from the date of notification onwards.

Item 3 In this Notification

“Applicant” means a person who wishes to register with the Department of Agriculture to serve as a certifying body for the plant products manufacturer.

“Certifying Bodies for the Plant Products Manufacturer” means an organization that functions as an assessment and certification of the plant products manufacturer that is registered with the Department of Agriculture to serve as the inspector and certify for the Good Manufacturing Practice system under the Thai Agricultural Standard.

“Certification Body” means an agency that has been accredited to serve as a certification body by the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS).

“Registration Certification Committee” means a committee appointed by the Director General of the Department of Agriculture to consider the qualifications of an applicant for registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer according to the scope of the application for registration.

“Review Group on Appeals” means a group of persons appointed by the Director General of the Department of Agriculture to consider appeals.

“Audit team of the Department of Agriculture” means a group of persons appointed by the Director General of the Department of Agriculture to assess and monitor the performance of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer.

“Audit” means a systematic, independent and documented process to obtain evidence of fair and just assessment and honest judgment to determine compliance with the Department of Agriculture to serve as the inspector and certify for the Good Manufacturing Practice system under the Thai Agricultural Standard.

“Plant Products Manufacturer” means packing house, processing house, chemical fumigation house and collecting house.

“Standard ISO/IEC 17021” means conformity assessment requirement for bodies providing audit and certification of the management system.

“Plant Products” means agricultural products and plant-based foods.

“Certification of Registration of the Plant Products Manufacturer” means supporting documents that shows the registration of the plant products manufacturer issued by the Department of Agriculture.

“PSCD” means the Plant Standard and Certification Division of the Department of Agriculture.

“TAS” means Thai Agricultural Standard of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Item 4 Scope of standards and practices for registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer

4.1 General Principles of Food Hygiene : Good Hygiene Practices (TAS. 9023)

4.2 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System and Guidelines for Its Application (TAS. 9024)

4.3 Good Manufacturing Practices for Packing House of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (TAS. 9035)

4.4 Code of Practice for Sulphur Dioxide Fumigation of Fresh Fruit (TAS. 1004)

4.5 Good manufacturing practices for packing house of fresh fruits (The export of fresh whole fruits)

4.6 Good manufacturing practices for collecting house of agricultural commodity

4.7 The other standard issued by Department of Agriculture

Item 5 Qualifications of the applicant

5.1 Being a Juristic Person under Thai law.

5.2 Getting the accreditation of certifying body in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021, in the scope of item 4 from the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodities and Food Standards.

5.3 In case the scope of standards that the applicant as certifying body for the plant products manufacturer is the standard of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the applicant must be licensed to be a conformity assessment service provider in accordance with the Agricultural Standards Act B.E. 2551 (A.D. 2008).

5.4 Should not be a person who has been withdrawal of registration according to the scope of registration application, unless 180 days have elapsed since withdraw.

5.5 Personnel who is the auditor to audit the plant products manufacturers have sufficient knowledge, competence, and experience within the scope of the application for registration and shall be trained and complete training according to the scope of the application for registration.

Item 6 Registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer

6.1 The application shall be submitted in accordance with PSCD 20 as attached to this notification together with other supporting documents to the Plant Standard and Certification Division of the Department of Agriculture or other institution designated by the Department of Agriculture or submitted through electronic means to the Department of Agriculture.

6.2 Upon receipt of such request, the officer shall review the applicant's request and documentary evidence. If it is deemed to be correct and complete, the officer shall notify the applicant and submit the application to the registration certification committee

6.3 The registration certification committee shall consider the applicant's qualifications according to the scope of the application for registration, if the qualifications do not meet the requirements, the applicant shall be notified in writing to amend, improve or submit additional supporting documents for consideration. If the qualifications are correct and complete, the Registration Certification Committee shall approve the competence and shall be registered certifying body for the plant products manufacturer and shall be endorsed to the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture to issue the certificate of registration certifying body for the plant products manufacturer.

6.4 The certificate showing the registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer shall be valid for 3 years from the date of its issuance and can be renewed for another 3 years at a time. If the applicant wishes to renew the certificate of registration certifying body for the plant products manufacturer, the application must be submitted before the certificate of registration certifying body for the plant products manufacturer expires in accordance with criteria and procedures in Item 6.1. Upon submission of the application, it shall be deemed to have the same status as a recipient of the certificate of registration as a registered certifying body for the plant products manufacturer and shall be valid until the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture orders not to extend the validity of the certificate of registration certifying body for the plant products manufacturer.

6.5 Extension or reduction of the scope of registration shall be carried out in accordance with Item 6.1

Item 7 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer that has received the certificate of registration certifying body for the plant products manufacturer shall be obliged to comply with the following conditions:

7.1 Maintain its competence certification status as a Certification Body in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021 from the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodities and Food Standards and has to maintain its licensed status.

7.2 In case of being authorized as a standard inspection operator according to the Agricultural Standards Act B.E. 2551, its permission status must be maintained.

7.3 Comply with laws, announcements, regulations, orders, including criteria, procedure and conditions for the registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer as prescribed by the Department of Agriculture and other relevant laws.

7.4 Should not recommend neither provides consulting services for the preparation of relevant management systems to the plant products manufacturer that is on the process of audits for certification in accordance with ISO/IEC 17021.

7.5 Cooperate with the audit team of the Department of Agriculture or the audit team from the competent authority of the importing country for the assessment of the plant products manufacturer.

7.6 The registration must not be used or cited in a way that damages or may cause misunderstanding in obtaining such registration.

7.7 Should there be changes in the details as registered, it must be notified in writing to the Department of Agriculture within 30 days from the date that changes been made.

7.8 There should be no subcontracting to other organizations or agencies to perform on their behalf according to the scope of registration.

Item 8 The audit team of the Department of Agriculture will inspect registered certifying body for the plant products manufacturer at least once a year by considering performance history or complaints and may inspect the entire management system at the certification body's office and evaluate the abilities of personnel who act the manufacturer plant products auditors. During the inspection of the manufacturer plant products within the scope of their registration If a defect is found, certifying body must complete the correction of the defect within 60 days from the date the defect was discovered. The Department of Agriculture will select the manufacturer plant products that will evaluate the competence of the certifying body for the plant products manufacturer itself.

in the case of the Department of Agriculture Participate in the inspection of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer. In collaboration with the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards Judgment of defects and solutions to be in accordance with the criteria and conditions for certifying the competence of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer of the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards.

Item 9 The registration certification committee for the registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer may consider proposing to the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture to order reduction of the scope, suspend, cancel or withdraw the registration and expose it to the public in accordance with these conditions.

9.1 Reduction of registration scope. The Department of Agriculture shall reduce the scope of registration when certifying body for the plant products manufacturer was unable to maintain to operate within the scope of registration, or certifying body for the plant products manufacturer had requested to reduce the scope of registration.

9.2 Suspension of registration. The Department of Agriculture will suspend registration in the event that a defect is detected and certifying body for the plant products manufacturer is unable to correct the defect within the specified period or certifying body for the plant products manufacturer does not comply with the criteria, methods, and conditions. In registering certifying body for the plant products manufacturer, The Director-General of the Department of Agriculture has the authority to order the suspension of registration. which will alert the suspension is for a period of not less than 60 days but not more than 120 days and may consider canceling the suspension of registration before 60-day period has elapsed if it is considered that certifying body for the plant products manufacturer has taken steps to correct the defects effectively.

9.3 Cancel or withdraw of registration. The Department of Agriculture shall cancel or withdraw the registration under any of the following cases:

9.3.1 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer intend to be canceled the registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer.

9.3.2 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer discontinued its operation.

9.3.3 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer was bankrupt by court order.

9.3.4 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer whose registration is suspended according to Section 9.2 and are unable to correct deficiencies within the specified period.

9.3.5 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer was unable to maintain certification body status according to ISO/IEC 17021 standards.

9.3.6 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer was unable to maintain the status of being licensed as a standard inspection operator according to the Agricultural Commodities Standards Act B.E. 2551 (A.D 2008)

However, the certifying body for the plant products manufacturer that was canceled or withdraw of registration its could still apply for new registration after 180 days from the date of withdraw.

9.4 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer that has been reduced of its scope, suspended, canceled or withdrawn of its registration shall ceased to conduct audits for the certification of the plant products manufacturer and shall discontinue the use of publications, advertisements that refers to the scope of registration.

Item 10 Appeals

10.1 Certifying body for the plant products manufacturer that has been reduced in scope, suspended, canceled or withdraw, the registrant may appeal in writing to the Department of Agriculture within 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice of reduction of scope, suspension, cancellation or withdraw the registration.

10.2 The Department of Agriculture shall appoint the Committee on Appeals and notify the results to certifying body for the plant products manufacturer within 60 days from the date of receipt of the appeal.

10.3 The appeal is not a remission, suppression, cancellation or withdraw of registration.

10.4 The decision of the Appellate Tribunal shall be final.

Item 11 Operating Expenses

The Department of Agriculture shall not ask for any fees incurred from the registration of certifying body for the plant products manufacturer, except in cases where the government has the policy to charge for operation fees.

Declared on 1<sup>st</sup> September A.D. 2015

(Mr. Anan Suwannarat)

Director General, Department of Agriculture