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GreenCert believes that sanctions are necessary to keep the integrity of the organic produce as well as to make the operations abide to the basic principles of organic farming. The approach towards disciplinary measures & sanctions is improvement and not punishment.

Non compliances are infringements made by the operator knowingly or unknowingly by the operator with regards to the NSOP standards and the principles of organic agriculture.

Minor Non-Compliance

Minor non-compliances are those violations of the NSOP standards that can be corrected within a specified time period (60 days from the last date of Inspection). Timely correction of non-compliances is a condition of continued certification. Minor noncompliance can become major if not corrected in a timely fashion.

GreenCert's sanction catalogue has a provision for upgrading minor non-conformity to major non-conformity. Repeated minor non conformity may lead to sanction as de-certification/withdrawal/suspension of the project.

Major non-conformities:

Major non-compliances are those which are severe violations that affect the organic integrity and are unable to be corrected within specified time (30 days from the last date of inspection); involve intentional misrepresentation, fraud or intentional violation of organic standards.

Repeated major non-conformity may lead to sanction as de-certification/withdrawal/suspension/termination of the project.

OFI (Opportunity for Improvement):

OFI are observations made by the organic certification body during inspections or audits. They identify areas where improvements can be made to enhance organic practices, even if these observations do not directly lead to non-compliance. OFIs serve as recommendations for better compliance with organic standards and can help the certified entity strengthen their organic management practices.

Based on the on-site inspection and a review of the information specified in the inspection report that a certified operator is not complying the requirements of the NSOP Standards, GreenCert may provide a written notification of noncompliance to theoperator.

Such notification will provide:

- A description of each noncompliance.
- The period in which the operator must correct each noncompliance and submit supporting documents of each such correction.

When a certified operator demonstrates that each noncompliance has been resolved, GreenCert examines/verifies the content submitted and on satisfaction, decides further action.

Evaluator examines the compliance report and forwards it to Certification Executive along with the comments. The Certification Executive, Certification manager & Quality Manager take the decision for non-compliances on the basis of nature of noncompliance. Accordingly, Certification executive sends the notification to the operator.

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CATALOGUE OF SANCTIONS

Level of Non-Conformity (Minor/Major)	Sanction and Follow Up
M1 – Minor non-conformity that does not compromise the organic integrity of the product/operation.	A deadline is established for submitting the corrective actions. The corrective actions and supporting documentation is evaluated to assess whether they adequately address the violation. Additional documentation and/or additional/unannounced inspections may be required to confirm that the corrective actions have been implemented.
M2 – Major non-conformity warning measure not implemented within the specified deadline or not fully implemented.	Additional/Unannounced inspection of the project. Additional corrective action is needed wherever relevant. Operator must submit corrective action within the deadline given by GreenCert.
M3 – Major non-conformity impacting the organic status of the operation.	Reduction in scope/Suspension /De-certification/Withdrawal of the project depending on the severity of the NC. GreenCert may conduct verification inspection during the suspension period of the project and if similar noncompliances are observed then it may lead to termination of the project.
M4 – Major non-conformity that impacts the organic integrity of the products.	Termination of the project



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Non Compliance List	M 1	M 2	M 3	M 4
<u>APPLICATION FORM</u>				
There is no clear data on land (the basis of use, size of fields, etc.).	•			
<u>PREVIOUS NON COMPLIANCES</u>				
Delay in corrections of previous non compliances			•	
Deficiencies that affect the certification were not corrected			•	
Corrective actions of previous year NCs not implemented			•	
Repeated Minor NC into Major NC		•		
<u>GENERAL REMARKS</u>				
With holding of important information, knowingly/wilfully provided any false or misleading information or document			•	
Not giving true evidence			•	
Not giving free access to the unit and premises				•
No acceptance of enforcement of corrective measures imposed by certification body			•	
The minimum requirements for prior recognition of so far non- cultivated or agricultural land could not be met (e.g. proof that no prohibited inputs have been applied supported by a third party declaration).		•		
Uncertain data, suspicion			•	
<u>MISSING DOCUMENTS</u>				
Additional information requested is not provided by operator			•	
Operator fails to comply with standards prescribed under the NPOP				•
Documentation not sufficient/correct		•		
<u>INSPECTION</u>				
Free access to all units including storage premises not provided not during inspection			•	
<u>PRODUCTION</u>				
The operator is managing a conventional farm and an organic farm in the same area with the same product (separate farms).		•		
Crop Mismatch with reference to AFL		•		
Using conventional untreated material without permission			•	
Use of materials treated with prohibited substances.				•
The intentional use of GMO material				•
Non intentional use of GMO material				•
Cannot prove the origin of purchased material			•	
No data is available on the parallel production		•		
Production of the same or similar organic and conventional products		•		
Deviation from the plan of conversion	•			
Inadequate separation of organic and conventional products		•		
The use of synthetic/prohibited fertilizers				•
Excessive use of allowed fertilizers			•	
If the results of the chemical analysis proved the presence of residues of prohibited substances (pesticide residues detection case)				•
Use of treated conventional seeds/vegetative propagating material				•
Use of untreated conventional seeds/vegetative propagating material; sufficient evidence of unavailability has not been provided		•		
Use of conventionally grown seedlings			•	



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Use of GMO-seeds, seed inoculates				•
Application of chemical fertilizers/pesticides/herbicides which are not allowed			•	
Quantity of fertilization(stocking density) not according to standards			•	
Application of fertilizers and plant protection products are of genetically modified origin.				•
Storage of inputs does not conform with the standards		•		
The way of cultivation does not sustain soil fertility (crop rotation, intercropping, soil erosion or soil compaction etc.)	•			
If non-conformities are established for the presence of residues of prohibited substances in certified organic product				•
The storage and transport of harvested crops are not complying with the requirements		•		
The separation of in conversion and organic products is not maintained.		•		
The requirements for step by step conversion are not fulfilled: - no implementation of conversion plan insufficient separation - no information to GreenCert prior to harvest no information on harvested quantities no renewal of approval of conversion plan (yearly)		•		
ORGANIC GROWER GROUP (ICS)				
Permanent board of ICS not displayed outside the premises, Scope certificate and AFL not displayed		•		
Failure to maintain an accurate, up-to-date register of all members, sites, and facilities.		•		
Significant variation in production practices among members without adequate ICS harmonization or training measures.			•	
Non-functional ICS Office		•		
Lack of documented assessment or mitigation measures for contamination risks from adjacent land using prohibited materials.			•	
New farmers admitted in ICS without complete application, risk assessment, or initial inspection.	•			
Unapproved or unverified production/area expansion not reflected in ICS documentation or internal inspections.		•		
Absence or insufficient measures for split/parallel production, including buffer zones, record-keeping, or separation.		•		
ICS failing to demonstrate continuous improvement or maintain documentation from previous years.		•		
Repetition of previously identified NCs of ICS, without evidence of corrective action		•		
ICS not performing appropriate risk assessments for diverse products, leading to inadequate monitoring.		•		
Insufficient measures to prevent contamination or commingling		•		
Staff lacking knowledge on NPOP standards, Members or ICS staff missing mandatory training or training records incomplete.		•		
Persistent or repeated minor NCs not addressed through corrective actions.			•	
Staff unavailable during opening/exit meeting of inspection		•		
GMO Detection in Farmers in Grower group				•
Functioning of ICS not found as per NPOP standards Chapter 5			•	
Deviations observed in AFL			•	
Submission of wrong/incorrect particulars of ICS Manager, growers		•		
Submission of incorrect/wrong identity documents of growers		•		
Submission of incorrect legal entity documents of the grower group		•		



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<u>PROCESSING AND HANDLING</u>				
A full description of the unit and the premises is not available or not correct		•		
Ingredients in processing not identifiable as organic			•	
Bleed Run conducted but cannot be proven/bleed run not conducted		•		
No proper separation measures followed during parallel production of organic and conventional products.		•		
No Organic Critical Control Plan developed or implemented		•		
Documentation: Minor defects which do not affect the issuance of certificates in record-keeping	•			
Larger defects that affect the issuance of certificates in record-keeping (inability to secure traceability procurement, production and sales, there is no record of production - diaries, separation of conventional and organic farming in all phases is not documented, such documentation required by GreenCert is not given in time)			•	
Product flow not clear/not traceable		•		
<u>TRADING</u>				
Details of Procurement incomplete/unavailable			•	
Scope & Transactions Certificates unavailable			•	
Warehouse layout missing	•			
Organic control Points not up to mark		•		
Comingling and Contamination		•		
Standard Operating procedures incomplete/unavailable		•		
Training to staff not given / Missing training records	•			
<u>WILD COLLECTION</u>				
Collection of wild plants does not meet the requirements		•		
Area of collection is not properly identified on appropriate maps		•		
Contamination from nearby areas		•		
Verification of operator records of all collectors not possible		•		
Collector trainings not conducted	•			
Contract with collectors unavailable		•		
Poor Handling of produce during collection and buying		•		
<u>LABELLING</u>				
Inadequate labelling of stored goods		•		
Storage Issues (No clear separation, conditions of storage not good)		•		
Marketing of products without GreenCert's approval		•		
The labelling of the products and/or indication on delivery notes, invoices is not correct		•		
Use of 'India Organic' Certification mark by a Certified operator for products which are not certified under NPOP			•	

1. Purpose

To establish a systematic approach for applying disciplinary measures, sanctions, and withdrawal of certification, ensuring compliance with certification requirements, organic standards, and applicable food safety laws under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSSA).

2. Regulatory Framework

The Certification Body shall apply disciplinary measures in alignment with:

- Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSSA)

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- Section 26: Responsibility of Food Business Operator
- Section 27: Liability of manufacturers, packers, distributors, sellers
- Section 52: Misbranded food
- Section 53: Misleading advertisements
- Sections 56–59: Unsafe food and penalties
- Section 63: Operating without license
- Section 89: Overriding effect over other standards
- Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017
 - Compliance with organic certification, labeling, and traceability
- Food Safety and Standards (Food Recall Procedure) Regulations, 2017
 - Requirements for recall of unsafe or non-compliant food
- Jaivik Bharat Portal Requirements (FSSAI)
 - Registration, traceability, and use of organic logo

3. Classification of Non-Compliance

Non-compliance shall be categorized as:

- Minor: No immediate food safety risk; procedural lapses
- Major: Significant non-compliance affecting certification or product integrity
- Critical: Food safety risk, fraud, or repeated violations

4. Disciplinary Measures and Sanctions

Type of Non-Compliance	Reference	Disciplinary Measures	Sanctions
Misbranding / Incorrect Labeling	FSSA Sec 52, Organic Food Regulations 2017	Immediate stop of label/mark use; corrective labeling	Withdrawal/cancellation of TCs; product recall; suspension of certification
Misleading Advertisement	FSSA Sec 53	Removal of promotional material; public correction if required	Suspension or withdrawal of certification (major/repeated cases)
Unsafe or Contaminated Food	FSSA Sec 56–59	Mandatory product recall; isolation of affected batches	Withdrawal of certification for affected lot; suspension for systemic issues; regulatory reporting
Recall Management Failure	Food Recall Procedure Regulations 2017	Immediate recall under supervision; corrective actions	Suspension or withdrawal; prohibition on future certification until compliant
Loss of Organic Integrity	Organic Food Regulations 2017	Decertification of affected lot; cancel TCs	Downgrading to conventional; suspension for systemic failure



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Non-Compliance with Licensing	FSSA Sec 63	Immediate halt of operations	Suspension or withdrawal until valid license obtained
Jaivik Bharat Portal Non-Compliance	Organic Food Regulations 2017	Correction of records; portal registration	Suspension or withdrawal; restriction on mark usage
Sampling/Traceability Failure	Organic Food Regulations 2017	Re-sampling/re-testing	Suspension or withdrawal if integrity cannot be restored
Storage, Transport, Handling	Organic Food Regulations 2017	Corrective action and verification	Decertification of affected lot; suspension for systemic issues
Repeated or Intentional Violation	All applicable regulations	Investigation and corrective action	Immediate withdrawal; regulatory notification; blacklisting

6. Graded Sanction System

- Minor Non-Compliance: Observation/warning; corrective action within defined timeline
- Major Non-Compliance: Suspension; increased surveillance; mandatory corrective action OR Immediate withdrawal; recall; regulatory reporting (depending on the severity)

7. Control of Certification Documents

- All Transaction Certificates (TCs) and documents linked to recalled or decertified products shall be cancelled or invalidated.
- Use of certification marks on affected products and documents shall be prohibited.
- CB shall maintain traceable records of all sanctions applied.

8. Communication and Notification

- Certified operators, buyers, and relevant regulatory authorities shall be informed of all disciplinary actions and sanctions.
- Notification shall include the reason, corrective measures, and status of certification.

9. Documentation and Record Keeping



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- Records of non-compliance, actions taken, and closure shall be maintained for audit purposes.
- Records shall include product lot, TC status, type of non-compliance, reference clause, and corrective action details.