

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Export of Apple, Orange, Vegetables, Cardamom and Ginger by Private Exporters

Objective:

To facilitate the exports of apple, orange, vegetable, cardamom and ginger by private exporters during COVID-19 pandemic.

Scope:

This SOP shall be applicable for exports of apple, orange, vegetables, cardamom and ginger to India and Bangladesh.

Roles of Stakeholders

1. Bhutan Exporters' Association (BEA)

- Shall coordinate with the exporters and producers for transport of apples and oranges from source to MDP/RRCO/PHSS ground
- Shall coordinate with the importers from India and Bangladesh for transshipment of consignments at the above identified areas
- Shall register the in-bound and out-bound vehicles with RTIO/RRCO one day in advance before 2:00 PM

2. DAMC, MoAF

- Shall liaise with the exporters/producers, BEA and other relevant agencies and ensure smooth and seamless export of agricultural produce from source to destinations
- Shall facilitate the export of apple, orange, vegetables, ginger and cardamom by the private exporters

3. BAFRA, MoAF, Pling

- Shall provide escort services for vehicles from Rinchending Checkpoint to the identified transshipment areas and back

4. RTIO, MoEA, Pling

- Shall carry out vehicle registration submitted by BEA
- Shall share the details of vehicle registration with RBP, RRCO, RSTA, BAFRA and BEA

5. RRCO, MoF, Pling

- Shall facilitate the entry of in-bound and out-bound vehicles before and after transshipment from the identified areas
- Shall record the export declaration from the individual exporters and issue necessary export documents for onward movement of the consignments

6. Regional Office, MoLHR, Pling

- Shall arrange adequate loaders for transshipment at the identified sites as and when necessary

7. Escorting of Vehicles

- Vehicles carrying the export items shall move to identified areas with escort from Rinchening Checkpoint at 5:30 AM for transshipment at MDP
- Vehicles shall be escorted by BAFRA from Rinchening Checkpoint to the identified areas and back to Rinchening Checkpoint
- Indian vehicles shall enter the border gate no. 2 from 6:00 to 7:00 AM for transshipment at MDP

8. Transshipment at MDP

- Vehicles shall be parked at the designated parking zone
- Transshipment shall be done by the loaders of MDP as per MDP containment protocol
- Loaded foreign trucks shall be sent back with escort provided by RRCO from border gate no. 1
- Empty Bhutanese vehicles shall be escorted back from MDP to Rinchening Checkpoint on its return journey by BAFRA
- RBP/Desuups on duty shall monitor and ensure strict compliance with the MDP containment protocols

9. Health advisories for drivers

- Must always wear a face mask
- Must wash hands frequently using soap and hand sanitizer
- Avoid unnecessary stopover especially at public places
- Carry packed meals and drinks to minimize interaction with public
- Avoid picking up passengers and goods on the way
- Avoid contact with loaders
- Should frequently sanitize the frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, steering, gear, dash board, indicators, seat cover etc
- Shall report to the nearest health centre in case of any symptoms of COVID-19

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