

F. No: 36-1/2020-QCC
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution
(Storage and Research Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 12.02.2021

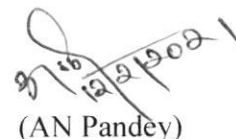
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Publishing Draft Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring quality of food grain stocks procured under Decentralised Procurement Scheme on public domain -reg

The undersigned is directed to forward a copy Draft Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring quality of food grain stocks procured under Decentralised Procurement Scheme for publishing on public domain/DFPD website seeking comments from stake holders.

2. The comments on the draft SoP may be forwarded to dcsr.fpd@nic.in at most within 3 weeks from the date of publishing of the draft SoP.

Encl: as above



(AN Pandey)

Assistant Director (S&R)
For Deputy Commissioner(S&R)
Tel No. 23384784

To,

✓
Sh. B.S. Ram, Technical Director, NIC
DFPD

Draft Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring quality of food grains stocks procured under Decentralized Procurement (DCP) scheme

Policy framework

Under Decentralized mode of procurement of food grains, the respective state governments procure wheat and paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the farmers of the state. Paddy is converted into rice by undertaking custom milling agreement with the rice millers. Rice and wheat to the extent of state's own requirements are consumed within the state and surplus quantity is handed over to FCI in central pool for transportation to deficit states. For the stocks consumed under PDS or other schemes of Government of India, subsidy element is claimed by the state government concerned from the ministry directly. For the surplus stocks taken over by FCI, payment is made by FCI to state government after taking over of such stocks.

Quality Management – Present System

The state government concerned is responsible for quantity and quality of food grains procured under DCP model. Surplus rice is delivered to FCI directly by the millers after custom milling and its quality is checked by FCI officers at the time of acceptance followed by superchecks by supervisory officers at various levels. For wheat, quality is checked by FCI at the time of taking over for movement to deficit states. Wheat is procured directly from farmers in government regulated markets/mandis. In case the offered stocks do not conform to specification, necessary advice is given to farmers to upgrade the quality of stock before acceptance to avoid any issue at a later stage. In case of quality issues due to natural calamity, relaxation in specifications is generally provided by GoI to mitigate the hardship of farmers. However since rice is delivered by private rice millers after processing of paddy, there are chances of quality issues in the offered Custom milled rice. There is a basic system in place to check the quality of stocks procured under DCP by FCI. For distribution of stocks, there is a system in place to cross check the quality of the stocks lifted from FCI depots. However no such systems exist for stocks issued from State's own procurement.

Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P.) For better monitoring of the work being done by State agencies and FCI, following S.O.P. are made by Ministry:

At the time of procurement/Storage

1. State government shall put in place a system of inspection of depots wherein procurement of rice and/or wheat is carried out by constituting a dedicated team or through senior officers of the department concerned. Such inspection shall be conducted on a monthly basis covering at least 50% of stock procured.
2. A **joint team** led by Ministry officials may be constituted to facilitate monthly inspection of DCP stock which will also include nominated officer / officials of state government & FCI. This team shall inspect minimum 25% of total stock procured on monthly basis. The Regional office of Ministry will submit the outcome of the monthly inspection to Ministry (S&R Division) **within 15 days** of completion of inspection. The analysis report submitted by Regional office of Ministry may be monitored by QCC Headquarters at Ministry.
3. In case, technically qualified officials/officer is not available in DCP States the services of a technically qualified official shall be provided by FCI.
4. Regional offices of Ministry shall monitor and ensure regular inspections of stocks and will submit monthly reports to HQ about the quality checks conducted as well as its outcome **within 15 days** of completion of inspection.
5. At the end of the every quarter, a consolidated report of the inspections of total depots of the state shall be prepared by the Regional office of FCI and submitted to the Ministry.
6. This report may be made a mandatory document for releasing the subsidy to the state government by ministry for the respective quarter.

At the time of distribution

1. Type sealed samples of stocks should be provided by FCI/State agencies godown at the time of receipt of the stock to the FPS dealer.

2. A Joint team led by the Ministry consisting of state government officials shall conduct inspection of FPS on monthly basis. Inspection of FPS is to be done keeping in view the following points:

- a) Type samples being supplied through FPS are displayed at prominent places.
- b) Information on the notice board is to be displayed at prominent places on daily basis regarding:- entitlement of food grains, scale of issue, retail issue price, timings of opening & closing of FPS, stock received during the month, opening & closing stock of foodgrains, list of beneficiaries.
- c) Maintenance of complaint book & no. of complaints lodged
- d) Hygienic condition of the shop viz. Dunnage, Stacking, insect infestation.
- e) Verification of Stocks available at the time of inspection with the opening and closing stock shown in the stock register.

3. In case of receipt of any complaint from beneficiaries regarding quality of food grains distributed, District Collector concerned may get such samples tested from Central Grain Analysis Laboratory/any NABL accredited Laboratory.

4. In order to ensure transparency in the implementation of Public Distribution System (PDS) and proper functioning of fair price shops a system of 'Social Audit' may be instituted. The Social Audit shall also include eliciting views/grievances/suggestions from the public on the functioning of Fair Price Shops. In this regard, the State government may constitute a social audit team consisting of representatives from local bodies such as Panchayats & Municipalities, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), NGOs, Agriculture Universities. The audit may be conducted once in six (06) months.

5. Action Taken Report (ATR) for all the discrepancies reported during the inspection should be submitted by concerned state/ FCI authorities to the Ministry.