

समुद्री उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण  
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
एम पी ई डी ए भवन, पनपिल्ली एवन्यू  
डाक पेटी सं. 4272, कोच्ची-682036, भारत

## The Marine Products Export Development Authority

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### CIRCULAR

#### **Sub: Physical Verification for registration renewal / virtual inspection for APE by Field Offices- reg.**

Requests have been received from field offices seeking clarification on joining the inspection by Assessment Panel of Experts (APE) through virtual mode for renewal of the registration / approval of seafood processing units and handling centres. The field offices have informed that EIAs have been instructed by EIC to follow virtual mode of inspection of the units for renewal of approval of the existing establishments, because of the concerns of contamination of the inspecting officers by Covid-19 pathogen.

The matter was examined and it is inferred that in order to have a proper examination of the establishment premises, implementation of HACCP based seafood safety management system and related document verification, it is imperative to have the physical verification done prior to renewal of the registration of the establishment, which otherwise can lead to omissions and lapses in the system, compromising quality compliance and can lead to rejections / complaints.

In view of the above, field offices are hereby instructed to inspect the units physically and grant registration / renew the registration based on satisfactory compliance to regulations, even if the EIA office proceeds with the virtual mode of inspection.

The inspecting officials shall follow Covid-19 protocols while inspecting the unit and shall also verify the implementation of Covid-19 protocols by the unit as per MPEDA guidelines.

Issued with the approval of Chairman.

(Dr. Ram Mohan.M.K.)  
Joint Director (QC) & Admin I/c

#### Circulation:

- (1) All Field Offices
- (2) Chairman / Director / JD (M) - for favour of information please.