

GUIDELINES FOR THE USERS OF “NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION MARK (NOCM)” ISSUED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SRI LANKA ORGANIC STANDARD SLS 1324:2018

- 1.0. National Organic Certification Mark hereinafter referred as NOCM will be granted on the basis of compliance with the Sri Lanka Organic Standard **SLS 1324: 2018** communicating the genuineness as well as the origin of the product.
- 2.0. The National Organic Control Unit (NOCU) established under the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) is the sole, absolute, and exclusive owner of the National Organic Certification Mark (NOCM).(Registered under National Intellectual Property Office- Under Class Nos29,30,31 and 32)
- 3.0. The companies who wish to use the National Organic Certification Mark shall obtain it through a Certification Body authorized by the National Organic Control Unit. Certification Bodies operating in Sri Lanka and accredited by the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) will be granted license to issue the NOCM in compliance with the Sri Lanka Organic Standard SLS 1324: 2018.
- 4.0 Usage of NOCM by the Sri Lankan growers, grower associations, manufacturers, processors, traders and exporters would be governed by the guidelines described here.

5.0. BASIC DESIGN ELEMENTS AND COLOURS OF NOCM

- Figure 1 shows the basic design elements of the NOCM. Only official artwork versions of the mark should be used.
- The NOCM has to be regarded as unchangeable symbol. It is not allowed to add any text, logos, symbols or other elements in side or the outer periphery of the Mark
- In order to maintain traceability and track the users, specific customer identification number to be issued and indicated under the Mark. This identification number will be issued by Certification Body.
- The name of the Certification Body who issue the certification should be indicated under the Mark



SLS 1324: 2018 XXXX (Operator Identification Number Issue by Certification Body)
Conformity assessment by: (NOCU registration number of the Certification Body & Name of the Certification Body)

Figure I

6.0 CONCEPT OF NATIONAL ORGANIC CERTIFICATION MARK

Ocean blue colour denotes the Island surrounded by the ocean and the fertility of the soil of the Island is represented by the yellowish-brown colour. The quality of the product coming from such fertile soil and the healthiness of the organic agriculture production systems are symbolized by the green colour.

SPECIFICATIONS

Colours

The Sri Lankan Organic Logo must comprise of the colour specifications listed below: -

- Green : #008601
- Ocean Blue : #1c9cc9
- Yellowish Brown : #c29134
- White : #ffffff

Type of font: Times New Roman

Change of colours in to Black & White is allowed in one colour printing process and other information need to be remain same as figure I



Proportions

The NOCM should be of a size which is in proportion to the front /back surface of the package (5%)

Scope of Certification

The scope of certification should be in line with the scope mentioned in the Sri Lanka Organic Standard SLS1324:2018 which prescribes requirements for production, wild harvest, post-harvest, handling, storage, processing, transportation, packaging, labelling and marketing of organic produce and products.

7.0. DISPLAY OF CERTIFICATION MARK

Every person who use the NOCM shall ensure that;

- i. It should be used only on products produced, processed, packed and labelled as per the Sri Lanka Organic Standard SLS 1324: 2018 and certified for compliance by an accredited Certification Body authorized by NOCU
- ii. The NOCM may use on
 - a. product packaging.
 - b. product labelling
 - c. product documentation (Eg- technical specifications, marketing and publicity materials)
- iii) The NOCM can be used on products containing at least 95% organic ingredients and additionally respect further strict conditions for remaining 5%

- iv) The same ingredients cannot be present in organic and non-organic form.
- v) The NOCM should correctly depict in original form together with the identification number as given in Figure 1 above.

8.0 AUTHORISED USERS

The growers, grower associations, manufacturers, processors, exporters, traders certified as per SLS 1324: 2018 by an Accredited Certification Body (CB) authorized by NOCU.

9.0 APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION

- 9.1. Certification to be obtained through a SLAB accredited certification body (CB) operating in Sri Lanka authorized by NOCU to issue the NOCM
- 9.2. Application to be made to the CB with the required documents to help the evaluation.
- 9.3 CB to publish a procedural manual in their web site in relation to the issue of SLS 1324; 2018 standard for the information of applicants.
- 9.4. CB to provide each applicant with an application package including following:
 - a) Applicants information;
 - b) Estimate setting forth relevant certification fees;
 - c) Certification Agreement;
 - d) Application forms pertaining to the Standard
- 9.5. Application shall be signed in the case of an individual, by the applicant or, in the case of a firm, by the proprietor, partner or the Managing Director of the firm.
- 9.6. CB to provide sufficient information to the clients seeking certification enabling them to comply with the standard and shall provide future updates to such applicable standards. CB shall provide information in Sinhala, English and Tamil Languages and certificate to be issued in the English language with translations in Sinhala & Tamil upon request.

10.0 USE OF CERTIFICATION

- 10.1. NOCM shall be applied to only such types, grades, classes, varieties, sizes of the products for which the certification has been granted.
- 10.2. The manner in which the licensee proposes to place or use the NOCM must be approved by the Certification Body
- 10.3. When the NOCM has been specified in respect of a product or process, no person other than the licensee in possession of a valid Certification shall make any public claim, through any advertisement, sales promotion leaflets, pricelists or the like, that his product conforms to the relevant NOCM.
- 10.4. Every licensee shall maintain, a system of control to keep up the quality of his production or processes and also a complete record of the tests & inspection data by means of a scheme of testing and inspection, to the satisfaction of the Certification Body.
- 10.5. Operator need to be registered with National Organic Control Unit (NOCU) once certified as per SLS 1324:2018

11.0 OBLIGATIONS OF THE USERS

An applicant on grant of a license to use the NOCM on a product shall:

- (a) at all times comply with the requirements of the license and comply with these guidelines or any amendments thereto;
- (b) not use the NOCM in any manner to which the Accredited Certification Body may object
- (e) upon suspension or termination of the NOCM, discontinue its use and withdraw all promotional and advertising material which contains any reference thereto;
- (f) permit access to the Inspector of the Accredited Certification Body & NOCU for purposes of assessment, audit or surveillance.
- (g) be required to produce evidence of continuing operations for the products or processes covered by the certification. The licensee shall notify the Accredited Certification Body in writing of discontinuance in such operations exceeding three months.
- (h) discontinuance of a certification in excess of six months or more may lead to cancellation of license.

12.0 SURRENDER OF LICENSE

The license granted by the Certification Body to the use the NOCM may be suspended or cancelled if:

- i. the licensee had used the NOCM in respect of a product/process which does not comply with the procedures and specifications prescribed in the SLS 1324: 2018; or
- ii. the licensee failed to provide reasonable facilities to the Certification Body to enable them to discharge the duties imposed on them; or
- iii. the licensee has failed to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the Certification Body
- iv. Certification may be surrendered by the licensee at any time in writing to the Accredited Certification Body.
- v. Where a license has been suspended or cancelled on the expiry of the period of its validity, the licensee shall immediately discontinue the use of the license notwithstanding the pendency of any Appeal and shall return the license and related documents to the Certification Body.
- vi. Where the licensee is unable, to rectify any deficiencies, within a reasonable period of time the license may be cancelled. Cancellation of the license in such case shall require the licensee to lodge a fresh application followed by the procedure prescribed in these regulations for the grant of a new license.
- vii. In the case of such cancelled license, a part of the license fee, if paid in advance, proportionate to the unexpired period of the license shall be
- viii. adjusted against any future fee payable by the licensee or the said part of the license fee can be refunded depending on the decisions of the Certification Body.

13.0. MISUSE OF NOCM

The licensee shall be deemed to have misused the NOCM, if it does not cease to display it immediately after:

- (a) Surrender of certification, suspension or cancellation;

- (b) The licensee has failed to implement changes as advised by the Accredited Certification Body.
- (c) National Organic Certification Mark may be revoked if the user :
- challenges the validity of the NOCM ; or
 - challenges NOCU as the sole, absolute, and exclusive owner of all right, title, and interest in the NOCM , and the goodwill associated therewith; or
 - take any action, which would impair the rights of NOCU and to the NOCM or the goodwill associated therewith.

14.0. BREACH OF AGREEMENT TO ISSUE NOCM

The license granted to issue the National Organic Certification Mark may be revoked if the Certification Body:

- Do not implement a proper product certification as per the SLS 1234:2018
- Do not implement proper system control & product verification on operators.
- challenges NOCU as the sole, absolute, and exclusive owner of all right, title, and interest in the NOCM , and the goodwill associated therewith; or
- take any action, which would impair the rights of NOCU in and to the NOCM or the goodwill associated therewith.

15.0 APPEALS

Any appeal arising from any order of the Certification Body shall be finally settled through a committee appointed by NOCU representing members from SLAB, SLSI and DOA. /DOEA. In the event the parties are unable to reach any understanding, the same shall be decided by the High Court of appropriate jurisdiction.