

F. No. 7-5/2019-S&I
Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Department of Food & Public Distribution
(Storage & Research Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 11.11.2019

To,

The Principal Secretary,
Department of Food, Civil Supplies and
Consumer Affairs, Government of Punjab,
Anaaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh - 160036.

Subject: Relaxation in Uniform Specification for procurement of Luster loss wheat by the Government of Punjab during RMS 2019-20 -reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer your letter No. 1/32/2019-FP-1/1391 dated 20.09.2019 on the above said subject and to convey that on due consideration of the circumstances explained in your aforesaid letter, the joint inspection reports submitted by the teams constituted for inspection of wheat procured by the FCI and the State agencies during RMS 2019-20, the recommendations submitted by FCI in this regard and the rainfall data of IMD data for the relevant period, the competent authority has approved ex post facto, relaxation upto 10 % in uniform specification without any value cut for the lustre lost wheat procured in the State of Punjab during RMS 2019-20 as per the particulars given below:

Sl. No.	Revenue Districts	Relaxation applicable for the procurement done during the period
1	Faridkot, Ferozepur, Muktsar & Fazilka	16.04.2019 to 25.04.2019
2	Mansa, Mohali, Moga, Ludhiana & Pathankot	16.04.2019 to 07.05.2019
3	Batinda & Hoshiarpur	17.04.2019 to 25.04.2019
4	Gurudaspur, SBS Nagar & Ropar	17.04.2019 to 07.05.2019
5	Fatehgarh Sahib	18.04.2019 to 07.05.2019
6	Amritsar, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Patiala & Sangrur	16.04.2019 to till the end of procurement
7	Tarn Taran	17.04.2019 to till the end of procurement
8	Barnala	18.04.2019 to till the end of procurement

2. The relaxation granted vide the preceding para is further subject to the condition that any financial or operational implication for giving effect to the relaxation shall be the sole responsibility of the State Government of Punjab and the stock of wheat already procured which comes within the ambit of this relaxation should be liquidated on over-riding priority basis.

3. From the communications received from the Government of Punjab requesting for granting relaxation in the uniform specification upto 10% without value cut for the entire quantity of wheat purchased during the RMS 2019-20 across the State, it is observed that vide your letter No. 1/32/2018/FP-1/914 dated 24.05.2019, it was for the first time communicated to the Ministry that the Government procuring agencies have procured the entire stock of wheat during RMS 2019-

20 in order to avoid any law and order situation by the farmers. Since, by then the procurement of wheat in the State of Punjab was almost complete, it shows that the procurement of lustre lost wheat in the districts where no relaxation was granted by the Central Government by then, were continued during the entire procurement season keeping the Ministry in dark and such procurement were made without obtaining prior approval of the Ministry in complete violation of the norms. It also appears from your aforesaid letter that procurement of lustre lost wheat in the nine districts as mentioned in your letter continued from 16.04.2019 itself whereas the approval for procurement of such wheat was issued by the Ministry on 08.05.2019. Since the wheat procured for the Central Pool are eligible for grant of food subsidy by the Central Government, the States are not expected to procure wheat under relaxed specification without obtaining prior approval of the Ministry. It is, therefore, requested that State Government of Punjab may conduct an enquiry to identify the officials responsible for such procurement of lustre lost wheat without the approval of the Ministry and initiate appropriate action for the lapses on their part. It is also requested that advisories/instructions be issued to all the concerned officials of the State procurement agencies to strictly ensure that in future no procurement of foodgrain under relaxed specification is made under any circumstances without prior approval of the Ministry.

4. This approval has been granted under very special circumstances as a special case and should not be cited as precedence in future.

Yours faithfully,

(Vishwajeet Halдар)

Deputy Commissioner (S&R)

Tel: 23382820

Copy To:

1. Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Food Corporation of India, New Delhi.
2. Executive Director (Commercial) FCI, New Delhi.
3. Executive Director (QC) FCI, New Delhi-w.r.t. your letter No. QC 2(3)/Punjab relaxation/2019-20 dated 26.04.2019.
4. General Manager (QC), FCI, New Delhi.
5. General Manager (Procurement), FCI, New Delhi.
6. Executive Director (North), FCI, Noida, U.P.
7. The General Manager (Region), FCI, RO, Bay No. 34-38, Sector 31A, Chandigarh.
8. PS to Hon'ble Minister, CA, F & PD, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Director (Policy)/Director (FCI)/Director (Movement)/DC(S&R)/US(Py-I)/US(BP)/AD(QC), Hqrs./ CGAL / IGMRI, Hapur.
10. PPS to Secretary (F&PD)/PS to AS&FA/PS to JS (P&FCI)/JS (Impex & EOP)
11. Section Officer, FC A/Cs
12. Director (Technical), NIC, CGO Complex, New Delhi with the request to put in the website of the Department.

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