

**BHUTAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD REGULATORY AUTHORITY (BAFRA)
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS**

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)
DURING LOCKDOWN**

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1. Background

1.1 The core mandate of BAFRA is to ensure Food Safety and Biosecurity through conformity assessment i.e., Inspection, Testing and Certification. Therefore, in the situation of regional, partial or complete Lockdown of the country, BAFRA shall in particular focus on Food Safety to ensure the Public Health and Safety.

2. Scope

2.1 This SOP shall apply to all food establishments such as store yards, warehouses and stores of essential food commodities, including food transports, rationing and mass catering in hospitals within the country, as the Lockdown may be applicable.

2.2 The general provisions from the BAFRA "*Criteria for Good Hygienic and Good Manufacturing Practices (GHP & GMP) for Licensing of Food Business 2014*" shall be applied during the inspection and monitoring.

3. Key Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Food Inspection and Monitoring

Shall carry out the inspection and monitoring of essential food items at the stock yards, warehouses etc. to ensure the following:

- 3.1.1 all essential food items delivered door to door to the people are safe for human consumption
- 3.1.2 all essential food items are stored under proper storage conditions to prevent from spoilage
- 3.1.3 stock inventory is properly maintained through implementation of First-In-First Out (FIFO) practices.

3.2 Collaboration with other Agencies/LEAs

3.2.1 Shall assist other agencies/LEAs (FCB/MoEA/RBA/RBP/DE-SUUNG) responsible for rationing and distribution of essential food commodities

- 3.2.2 Shall assist other LEAs (DLO/Dept of Immigration/DRC/RBA/RBP) in border control management (Ports of Entry/Exit)
- 3.2.3 Shall facilitate the mobilization and movement of vegetables, livestock/fishery products and other essential food items from local sources in collaboration with Agriculture/Livestock Extension Agents of MoAF, to ensure food safety
- 3.2.4 Shall carry out inspection of vehicles carrying essential food items at the entry points/MDPs
- 3.2.5 Shall assist other LEAs (Dept of Immigration/RBP/RBA/DE-SUUNG) in manning other strategic interior check points, if designated
- 3.2.6 Shall assist other agencies in implementing “stay-home” orders to ensure an effective Lockdown.

4. Disinfection of Quarantine Facilities and Vehicles

4.1 Shall carry out disinfection of quarantine facilities (Government and private) and vehicles used for quarantine purposes in close collaboration with MoH and other concerned agencies. The Ministry of Health’s Notification No. MoH/DMS/47/2019-20/206 dt. 30th March 2020 “***Protocol for Disinfection and Decontamination of Vehicles and Quarantine Facilities***” shall be strictly implemented.

This SOP shall be subject to revision based on the Government’s further directives issued, as and when necessary.