



File No. FS/Sectt./Food/4M-24/2021

No. 1558

Date: 24/04/2025

Sub: SOP regarding Replacement of BRL Rice stocks detected by Joint Inspection team formed by MoCAF&PD, GoI

- Ref: i) Order vide Memo No. 01-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-12/2021 (Pt. I) dated 03/01/2022 issued by Secretary, F&S Deptt., GoWB
ii) Handbook of Quality Control of Storage & Research (S&R) Division, DFPD issued by Joint Commissioner (S&R) vide No. 36-2/2024-QCC (E: 386657) dated 27/06/2024

Food & Supplies Department had issued SOP vide Memo No. 01-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-12/2021 (Pt. I) dated 03/01/2022 with a view to ensure that foodgrains of proper quality and quantity are received in all godowns and that such received stocks are stored appropriately prior to their delivery. **The DCF&Ss are to make regular monitoring and supervision of the godowns under them in order to ensure that the Godowns-in-Charge / Godown Superintendents and the QC Inspectors are following the said SOP diligently and without any exception in each and every godown under their supervision. The DCF&Ss are the custodians of the stock in each godown and it is their primary responsibility to ensure that stock is received as per the specifications of the quality and quantity and the quality is maintained during storage and till distribution. They are supposed to equip their team and coordinate with the Storage Godowns-in-Charge accordingly.**

The roles and responsibilities assigned to the Godowns-in-Charge / Godown Superintendents and the QC Inspectors in the said SOP, especially those pertaining to maintenance of godowns (**Para 1**); maintenance of necessary equipments and weighbridge at the godowns (**Para 2**); preparation of godowns before receiving the stocks (**Para 3**); stipulations relating to Quality Control at the time of receiving the stocks (**Para 4**); maintenance of stacks (**Para 5**); preservation of stocks (**Para 6**) and stipulations regarding delivery of Fortified Rice (**Para 7**) shall be fully understood and meticulously implemented by all staff posted as Godowns-in-Charge or Godown Superintendents and QC Inspectors in any godown. DCF&Ss shall also ensure that the provisions regarding inspection of godowns and physical verification of stocks (**Para 8**) are also carried out regularly as per the periodicity mentioned in the above referenced order.

At the same time, it is also to be ensured by the DCF&Ss that the provisions of the **Handbook of Quality Control of Storage & Research (S&R) Division, DFPD** issued

by Joint Commissioner (S&R) vide No. 36-2/2024-QCC (E: 386657) dated 27/06/2024 are also followed in their godowns. DCF&Ss are to give special attention to ensure that the protocols for monitoring the quality of foodgrains stock procured under Decentralised Procurement (DCP) Scheme as provided for under Chapter 9 of the said Handbook of Quality Control are followed scrupulously. To this end, DCF&Ss shall put in place a system of inspection of the godowns where Fortified Rice stocks are received and stored. Inspection of the procured stock of Fortified Rice shall be conducted on monthly basis and mill-wise stacking may be ensured.

The foodgrains found beyond the Uniform Specification for Grade 'A' & 'Common' Rice including Blending Ratio issued by the DFPD (for concerned Kharif Marketing Season) is considered as Beyond Rejection Limit (BRL). Such stock shall not be distributed under the Public Distribution System / any other welfare schemes.

Pertinent to mention that the Uniform Specification for Grade 'A' & 'Common' Rice (Kharif Marketing Season 2024-25) issued by the DFPD, Gol specifies, *inter alia*, that **"in case of procurement of fortified rice stock, 1% of FRK (w/w) should be blended with normal rice stock."** However, **"blending ratio may vary from a range of 0.9 to 1.2% by weight in fortified rice subject to satisfying the prescribed micro-nutrients level as per the CoA of FRK."**

In order to minimise the chances of Fortified Rice stocks received in the godowns being **declared BRL due to failing the blending ratio**, following **measures shall be implemented without fail:**

i) DCF&Ss shall ensure that all empanelled rice mills have a functional Dynamic Blender (weight / load cell-based) for Rice and FRK blending having maximum batch size of 50 kg integrated with bagging machine for delivery of fortified rice installed at all times during their period of empanelment in terms of Order vide No. 2615-FS dated 26/06/2023.

Further, the DCF&Ss, the Director of DDP&S and the Procurement Cell of the Department shall ensure regular and repeated inspection of all empanelled Rice Mills throughout the empanelment period to check that the blending of rice with FRK is being done using only the Dynamic Blender and the thus produced Fortified Rice stocks are being bagged only by the bagging machine integrated with the Dynamic Blender.

ii) While implementing the stipulations relating to Quality Control **at the time of receiving the stocks** (Para 4 of SOP vide Memo No. 01-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-12/2021 (Pt. I) dated 03/01/2022):

A. Fortified Rice consignments are to be checked by the Godown Quality Control Inspectors as per the existing procedure for analysis of food grains (BIS methods, read with updated amendments). The Godown Quality Control Inspectors must ensure that all bags of fortified rice received at their godowns comply with Food Safety & Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020

and Food Safety & Standard (Fortification of Foods) First amendment Regulations, 2021. They shall also enter the relevant details in the Department's portal.

- B. For Qualitative and Quantitative tests of fortified rice, the provisions mentioned under the Handbook of Quality Control of Storage & Research (S&R) Division, DFPD shall be applicable.
- C. Rice millers shall upload the CoA of the FRK batch used and the CoA of the corresponding Premix in the portal along with Offer for CMR delivery. The DCF&Ss shall check the CoAs in the portal and satisfy themselves of their authenticity before issuing RRO against the said Offer.
- D. Each consignment / lot of Fortified Rice is to be checked for physical parameters by the QC Inspector of the godown.
- E. The Godown Quality Control Inspectors shall check the blending ratio [**BLENDING EFFICIENCY TEST (BET)**] of each consignment at the time of acceptance to ensure that the prescribed quantity of FRK is blended with the conventional rice to make it fortified. In case there is problem in physical separation, a chemical test (iron spot test) may also be done to identify the number of FRKs in a test sample of fortified rice. At the time of receipt of each consignment / lot of Fortified Rice at their godowns, the Godown Quality Control Inspectors shall also verify the CoAs of FRK and the Premix from their own login by scanning the QR code on the CoAs uploaded in the portal.

BLENDING EFFICIENCY TEST (BET):

- i) Draw composite sample from the stocks of fortified rice received at the godown.
- ii) From this composite sample, prepare a smaller 50 g sample.
- iii) Identify the FRKs in this 50 g sample by visual examination or iron spot test.
- iv) Segregate the FRKs from the sample.
- v) **Weigh** the FRKs segregated from the sample.
- vi) Blending ratio will be calculated by weight by weight (w/w) ratio.

The offered lot of fortified CMR should be uniformly blended with FRK (1:100). The **Tolerance Limit of Blending Ratio**, as specified by FSSAI, **ranges from -10% to +20%, i.e. 0.9 to 1.2.**

Standard Operating procedure for Qualitative Spot Test of Iron in Fortified Rice:

This is a Qualitative test only. It detects whether iron is present or not. Quantitative details, including iron level and mixture homogeneity are beyond the scope of this procedure. Time required for this test is less than five minutes.

Equipments: Weighing Machine / Balance

Glassware:

- 1) 100 ml measuring cylinder (2 pcs)
- 2) 50 ml measuring cylinder (2 pcs)
- 3) 25 ml measuring cylinder (2 pcs)
- 4) 100 ml volumetric flask (4 pcs)
- 5) 100 ml glass beaker (4 pcs)

- 6) 250 ml conical flask (4 pcs)
- 7) 250 ml Amber colour glass bottle (for reagent storing) (2 pcs)
- 8) Plastic tray (round shape)/petri-dish (80×70)
- 9) Plastic dropper (1 packet) (4 pcs)
- 10) Distilled water-keeping bottle 250 ml (2 pcs)

Reagents or Chemicals required:

- 1) Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) (6.0% solution)
- 2) Potassium thiocyanate (KSCN)
- 3) 35% Hydrochloric Acid (HCl)
- 4) Distilled water (laboratory grade)

Preparation of reagents/solutions:

Preparation of 10% Potassium thiocyanate (KSCN) solution:

- Take 10 g Potassium thiocyanate in a 100 ml volumetric flask. Add 100 ml distilled water in it. Shake vigorously until the total salt dissolves.

Preparation of 2N HCl (Hydrochloric Acid) solution:

- Take 83.0 ml distilled water in a 100 ml measuring cylinder. Add remaining 17.0 ml HCl to make the solution 100 ml. Keep this solution in a 100 ml volumetric flask with cap after gentle shaking.

Solution-1:

- Mixing of 10% KSCN solution and 2N HCl solution in 1:1 ratio.
- Take 20 ml 10% KSCN solution in a 50 ml measuring cylinder and add 20 ml 2N HCl solution in it. Keep this solution in a 100 ml beaker.

Solution-2:

Preparation of 3.0% Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) solution

- Take 50 ml 6.0% Hydrogen peroxide solution in a 100 ml measuring cylinder. Add remaining 50 ml distilled water to make 100 ml. Keep the solution in a 100 ml volumetric flask with cap.

Procedure of testing:

- Take 50 g of fortified rice in a petri-dish / plastic tray.
- Pour the Solution-1 with the help of dropper on the fortified rice sample drop by drop. Make the fortified rice sample wet at several points, particularly where the FRKs are seen.
- Wait for 1-2 minutes.
- If needed, add Solution-2 drop by drop with the help of dropper.

Result observation:

- Fortified rice kernels will turn **RED to DARK RED** indicating the presence of Iron fortification. Fortified rice kernels will turn **BLACK** upon drying.

- If Solution-1 does not give satisfactory results, Solution-2 will indicate the presence of FRKs by colouration. **Otherwise, fortification by iron has not been done.**
- Segregate the FRKs identified by iron spot test from the sample.
- **Weigh** the segregated FRKs to confirm if the blending ratio is within the acceptable **range of 0.9 to 1.2 : 100** by weight.

However, if the sample fails on account of blending, an opportunity would be given to the concerned Rice miller to bring the blending ratio of the rejected stock within the permissible range.

Any lot / truck of Fortified Rice found beyond the Uniform Specifications (including blending ratio) issued by the DFPD, GoI, at the time of receiving in the godown shall be treated as BRL stock and summarily rejected. The details of such rejection shall mandatorily be recorded both in the Rejection Register to be maintained at the godown as well as on the Department's portal.

Godown Visit and Inspection of DCP stocks by Joint Teams led by DFPD officials:

It is to be mentioned that Joint Teams led by DFPD officials including nominated officer / officials of State government and the FCI visit and inspect DCP stock in different food storage godowns and across the supply chain of the Public Distribution System for monitoring quality of foodgrains stock procured under Decentralized Procurement (DCP) scheme.

It is, however, observed in several cases that the stock which had been declared BRL after analysis of samples drawn during the visit of the Joint Teams, has been disposed without following the norms mentioned in the Handbook of Quality Control of Storage & Research (S&R) Division, DFPD issued by Joint Commissioner (S&R) vide No. 36-2/2024-QCC (E: 386657) dated 27/06/2024.

So, to ensure quality of foodgrains in Public Distribution System, especially the stock which is declared BRL after analysis of samples drawn during the visit of the Joint Teams the following steps need to be followed strictly for monitoring quality of foodgrains stock procured under Decentralized Procurement (DCP) scheme:

1. DCF&Ss will facilitate inspection of DCP stocks by the Joint Teams led by DFPD officials which also include nominated officer / officials of state government and FCI.
2. Two types of inspection may be conducted by the Joint Teams– Periodic / Monthly inspection and Surprise inspection.
3. The periodic / monthly inspection may be conducted of the total procured stocks under DCP scheme. During the inspection of any FCI district, the Joint Team may inspect FR / Wheat stocks procured in accordance to the scheme mentioned below:

- 100% upto 1,000 MT
- 10% upto 10,000 MT
- 5% for more than 10,000 MT

The schedule of such inspection may be intimated to the concerned authorities of the State Government before the commencement of inspection.

In case of quality related issues observed by the Joint Team or during any complaint, the Joint Team may increase the number of visits to the said FCI / Revenue district.

4. Surprise inspection can be conducted at any time by the Joint team without giving any prior notice to the concerned authorities of the State Government.
5. There must be clear co-relation between problem in the quality of foodgrains in the area /region vis-à-vis number of samples drawn percent of test check.
6. **Stacking should be done rice mill-wise as far as practicable. However, if the Joint Team, during inspection of a godown, draws samples from a stack which has been built up of stocks supplied by more than one rice mill, the Godown-in-Charge / Godown Superintendent in whose presence the samples are drawn will point out the same to the Joint Team and ensure that the samples are drawn from the bags of stock supplied by one and the same rice mill.** This is to be done in order to ensure that if the drawn samples are found to be BRL after analysis, only the rice mill which supplied the BRL stock in the said stack is held responsible and made to replace the BRL stock with FAQ stock at their risk and cost. The other rice mill(s) whose supplied stocks in the same stack are not found to be BRL should not be made to replace their stock.
7. **The Joint Inspection Team should be requested to provide a statement of the samples drawn by filling up the Sample Drawal Form** (see Annexure). This document should be signed by both the sample drawing authority (Joint Inspection Team) as well as the Godown-in-Charge / Godown Superintendent and/or the Godown QC Inspector in whose presence the sample was drawn.
8. **The stacks of FR stocks from which samples are collected by the Joint Team shall not be delivered or transferred to another place until the analysis report is received from the DFPD, Gol.**
9. The foodgrains found beyond the specifications issued by the DFPD is considered as Beyond Rejection Limit (BRL). Such stocks shall not be distributed under the PDS or any other welfare schemes.
10. **Provision for BRL rice stock:**
 - a. In case of detection of BRL FR stock (including blending ratio) by the Inspecting Team, a notice should be issued by the concerned DCF&S to the miller directing to replace the BRL stocks with FAQ stock. DCF&Ss shall invariably issue such notices within three (3) working days from the date of receipt of report / communication of detection of BRL FR stock.
 - b. The stocks shall be replaced by the defaulting rice miller at their risk and cost preferably within thirty (30) days.
 - c. After replacement of BRL stocks, concerned DCF&S will inform the regional office (Quality Control Cell, Kolkata qcc.kolkata.fpd@nic.in) with a copy to the officials at the Head office under DFPD, Government of India including

the Joint Secretary (PD, BP, NFSA and S&R), DFPD, Gol (at present ravi.ias@nic.in); the Joint Commissioner (S&R), DFPD, Gol (dcsr.fpd@nic.in) and the Assistant Director (S&R), Quality Control Cell, DFPD, Gol (at present preeti.shukla@nic.in) for verification and certification of replaced stocks by Joint team consisting of Group-I officer of the Ministry, officers / officials of State Government and the FCI. A copy of this communication shall also be marked to the Director, DDP&S (ddps2.fs.wb@gmail.com).

DCF&Ss shall communicate such information to DFPD, Gol within three (3) working days after the replacement of BRL stocks is completed.

- d. The replaced BRL stocks shall be verified and certified by a Joint Team consisting of nominated officers of the DFPD, the State Government and the FCI.
 - e. Unless the replaced stock is verified and certified by the Joint Team, it will not be issued in the PDS or transported to another place.
 - f. The final Action Taken Report should be communicated to the Ministry as well as to the Directorate of DDP&S immediately but not later than three (3) days after verification and certification for further action.
 - g. The entire exercise of replacement of stocks by rice miller shall be completed within thirty (30) days followed by a request of the State Government / Agency for verification and certification by the Joint Team.
 - h. The certification shall be completed as early as possible but not more than two (2) months from the receipt of the request [**Para 3(I)(d) under Chapter 9 of the Handbook of Quality Control**].
 - i. Any delay in verification and certification should be communicated by the DCF&Ss to the Directorate of DDP&S for follow up action from their end. Ordinarily, if no response is received from QCC / DFPD within seven (7) days of sending the request for verification and certification by the Joint Team, DCF&Ss may inform the same to the Directorate of DDP&S. Further reminders should be sent to the QCC / DFPD, Gol in case of no response or action.
 - j. The Director, DDP&S, on receipt of report regarding delay in verification and certification from the DCF&S, shall take up the matter immediately but not later than three (3) days with the appropriate authority (QCC and DFPD) for early certification.
 - k. As per instructions of DFPD, Gol the certificate of replacement shall be one of the mandatory documents for release of subsidy to the State. Therefore, the DCF&Ss and the Director, DDP&S shall monitor the entire exercise closely.
11. If stock of any Rice Mill is declared BRL by Joint Team, DCF&S shall issue explanation letter to the concerned Rice Mill and take action accordingly as per rules. DCF&S may also stop the Rice Mill from procurement operation on repeated occurrence.
12. The godown where the stock is detected as BRL, DCF&S shall issue explanation letter to the concerned Quality Control Inspector and take action accordingly as per rules.

13. DCF&S will take necessary steps to reverify the quality of foodgrains regularly through DCF&S / ADCF&S / SCF&S / Quality Control Inspector in the godowns where BRL stocks have been found during Inspection of Joint Team.

This order will take immediate effect.



Principal Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal
Food & Supplies Department

No. 1558/1/35 FS/Sectt./Food/4M-24/2021

Date: 24/04/2025

Copy forwarded for information and taking necessary action to:

1. The Director, Directorate of DDP&S, F&S Department
2. The Managing Director, WBSWC
3. The Director of Inspection & Quality Control, F&S Department
4. The Director of Finance, F&S Department
5. Joint Secretary (PD, BP, NFSA and S&R), DFPD, GoI
6. Joint Commissioner (S&R), DFPD, GoI
7. Assistant Director (S&R), Quality Control Cell, DFPD, GoI
8. The General Manager, FCI, West Bengal Region
- 9-30. The District Controllers (F&S) – all
31. The Assistant Director, QCC – Kolkata, DFPD, GoI
32. The PS to the Hon'ble MIC, F&S Department, GoWB
33. The PS to the Hon'ble MoS, F&S Department, GoWB
34. The Sr. PA to the Principal Secretary, F&S Department, GoWB
35. The President, Bengal Rice Mills Association.



Sr. Special Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal
Food & Supplies Department

Sample Drawal Form

Name of Godown:

District:

Date of Sampling:

Commodity: Fortified Rice (for analysis)

Pool (Central / State)	Category (Parboiled / Raw)	Crop Year	Shed No.	Stack No.	No. of Bags (in the stack)	Quantity (in quintal)	Date of receipt	Source of receipt (name of Rice Mill)

Important Note:

1. Samples from each stack were drawn in triplicate– one sample was handed over to the Godown-in-Charge / Godown Superintendent or the QC Inspector of the godown in whose presence the samples were drawn, and the other two samples were taken by the Inspection Team for analysis and report.
2. The stock against the abovementioned stacks no. / sample should be kept withheld until the analysis report is received or three (3) months, whichever is earlier.

Signature of
Godown-in-Charge /
Godown Superintendent

Signature of
Godown QC Inspector

Signature of
Sample drawing authority

Copy to: DCF&S, _____