

Inspection carried out in Haa Dzongkhag

A. Background

In collaboration with BAFRA officials, inspection was carried out at major marketplaces in Haa Dzongkhag from October 21, 2022 to October 24, 2022 and from November 3, 2022 to November 6, 2022.

All general retail stores and petroleum retail outlet (PRO) under Haa Throm and Katsho, Bji, Jenkana, Eusu and Samar Gewogs were covered to ensure that they are all compliant to market regulatory requirements as stipulated under the CPA, 2012 and CPRR, 2015. The team also covered all Wood-Based Industries (WBI) in these locations to inspect compliance to selling price for timber, sand and stone which have been affixed by Natural Resources Pricing Committee (NRPC).

Products were inspected to ensure they meet the following criteria:

- a. All products are adequately labeled and there is clear and prominent display of price,
- b. Money receipts for issuance upon purchase of products,
- c. Weights and volumes of products are as displayed or indicated,
- d. All weights and measures are calibrated and accurate,
- e. Packages of all products are intact (not torn or opened) and all food products within the date of expiry,
- f. To ensure POL products are not adulterated and all pumps are calibrated,
- g. All PROs meet the minimum safety standards,
- h. Compliance to NRPC selling prices by WBI

B. Coverage

A total of 41 business entities were inspected (Table I)

Table I: Number of different types of business entities inspected

Sl.No	Gewog/town	WBI	Grocery	PRO	Total
1	Bji	3	4	0	7
2	Katsho	2	0	0	2
3	Haa Town	1	19	1	21
4	Jenkana	0	8	0	8
5	Samar	1	0	0	1
6	Eusu	6	11	0	17
Total		13	42	1	56

C. Findings & Observation:

As per the inspection carried out, the team noted the following observations:

- Out of 56 (13 sawmills, 42 grocery shops and 1 PRO) 10 sawmills, 16 groceries and PRO were found issuing money receipts on customer's demand.
- In 34 grocery shops, it was found that locally produced/packed products like *kabchi*, *zan*, *dal*, milk powder, butter, cheese and tea leaf were displayed for sale without minimum product labeling.
- It was found out that 25 groceries were using weighing balance, which were not calibrated.
- Out of 56 businesses inspected, 21 business entities (9 WBIs, 1 PRO and 11 grocery shops) were found displaying price prominently and clearly,
- Expired products such as *maida*, soft drinks (Mirinda), noodles, chips and biscuits were found displayed for sale in 5 groceries.
- The quantity of fuel dispensed by the petroleum outlet were found to be on a permissible range and the PoL were found complying with the general safety requirements prescribed for fuel stations.
- While the sawmills had displayed the price of their products, it was not possible to ascertain if they were actually sold at that price, because for various reasons they did not produce carbon copies of sales receipts.

D. Action Taken and Additional Recommendations:

- The list of 25 business entities that had not calibrated their weighing machine was forwarded to Bhutan Standard Bureau (BSB) for necessary action.
- Business entities selling/ displaying expired food products were levied a fine of Nu. 3,705/- by BAFRA.
- The PRO was advised to maintain daily records of fuel density and check the quality of fuel from time to time. Further they were also advised to cross-check fuel dispensed from machines on a daily basis to ascertain the accuracy of volume dispensed.
- It is important to inspect WBIs in close collaboration with the Forestry personnel, preferably from the HQ in the future, to improve collaboration from WBIs and the quality of inspection.
- There is a need to train OCP inspectors on proper quality evaluation of POL products.

Yeshi Dema, Sr. Inspector, OCP
Sangay Lhamo, Inspector, OCP