

F. No. IA 3-22/15/2022-IA-III [Computer No 178038]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 6th May, 2022

CIRCULAR

Subject: Mechanism for handling ToR applications for issuing Standard Terms of Reference(ToRs) or referring to EAC/ SEAC through PARIVESH portal - reg.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide S.O.996(E) dated 10th April 2015 amended the EIA Notification 2006 to *inter-alia* state that the Standard ToR developed by the Ministry and displayed on the website shall be the deemed approved ToR for the projects or activities listed in the Schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006, provided that the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) or State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) may finalise amendment, if found necessary for a project within thirty days of the acceptance of application. The Standard ToRs were developed to enable the Project Proponent to commence preparation of an Environment Impact Assessment Report after successful online submission and registration of the application.


2. Subsequently, in order to expedite the process of granting Standard ToR in respect of expansion proposals and projects located within notified Industrial Estates, where there is no examination of alternative sites involved, the Ministry vide S.O. 751(E) dated 17th February 2020 amended the EIA Notification 2006, to introduce the concept of issuance of an online Standard ToR after acceptance of the proposal by the Regulatory Authority, automatically through the web portal developed by the Ministry to the Project Proponent. Further the provisions of the Notification were amended to state that sector specific Standard ToR developed by the Ministry from time to time shall be displayed on its website. The above-said notification also provided that all new projects or activities other than those specified shall be referred to the EAC or SEAC by the Regulatory Authority, as the case may be, within 30 days from the date of application, for recommending the specific ToR in addition to the Standard ToR, deemed necessary.

3. Based on the experience gained in the past while implementing the above mentioned provisions of the EIA Notification 2006, the Standard ToRs, have been further updated to ensure environmental protection and have been placed on PARIVESH portal. Further, guidelines have also been developed in the form of a matrix for the projects where the online system generated ToR can be issued taking into account the environmental sensitivity involved in the project (Copy enclosed as Annexure).

4. Based on the above matrix, the mechanism for issuing online system generated Standard ToR as well as reference to EAC/SEAC has been enabled on the PARIVESH Portal, on the acceptance of the complete application online. The concerned Member Secretary of EAC/SEAC shall refer the project to the concerned EAC/SEAC for prescribing additional ToR within fifteen days, if deemed necessary, depending on environmental sensitivity involved in siting the project at proposed location or any other issues involved in the project.

5. In this regard, it is hereby directed that the Member Secretaries of the concerned EAC/SEAC shall scrutinize the applications as per the provisions mentioned above within seven days from the date of application for issuing online system generated Standard ToR and shall refer the application for grant of ToR to EAC/SEAC only as an exception depending upon the environmental sensitivity involved or as aforementioned guidelines mandate .

6. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Sundar Ramanathan)
Scientist E

To,

1. The Chairman all the Expert Appraisal Committees
2. The Chairman/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. All the Officers of IA Division
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS(EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to AS(TK)
5. PPS to JS(SKB)
6. Website, MoEF&CC
7. Guard File

Annexure to OM No. IA 3-22/15/2022-IA-III [Computer No 178038]			
Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR			
S. No	Project/Activity	Green Field	Brown Field
1	Mining, extraction of natural resources and power generation (for a specified production capacity)		
1(a)	(i) Mining of minerals	No (Greenfield project requires examination in EAC only when river diversion within mine area, CPA/SPA, WL sanctuary, inappropriate siting criteria exists)	Yes
			No (Depending on the application, brown field project can be considered for standard TOR, if no area of project increases)
	(ii) Slurry pipelines (coal, lignite and other ores) passing through national parks / sanctuaries / coral reefs, ecologically sensitive areas.	Yes	Yes
1(b)	Off-shore and onshore oil and gas exploration, development and production	Yes	Yes
1(c)	(i) River Valley projects	No	No
	(ii) Irrigation projects	No	No
1(d)	Thermal Power Plants	No	No
1(e)	Nuclear power projects and processing of nuclear fuel	Yes	Yes
2	Primary Processing		
2(a)	Coal washeries	No	Yes
2 (b)	Mineral beneficiation	Yes	Yes

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Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR			
S. No	Project/Activity	Green Field	Brown Field
3	Materials Production		
3(a)	Metallurgical industries (ferrous & nonferrous)	Yes	Yes
3(b)	Cement plants	Yes	Yes
4	Materials Processing		
4(a)	Petroleum refining industry	Yes	Yes
4(b)	(i)Coke oven plants	Yes	Yes
	(ii) Coal tar processing units	Yes	Yes
4(c)	Asbestos milling and asbestos based products	Yes	Yes
4(d)	Chlor-alkali industry	Yes	Yes
4(e)	Soda ash Industry	Yes	Yes
4(f)	Skin/hide processing including tanning industry ²	Yes	Yes
5	Manufacturing/Fabrication		
5(a)	Chemical fertilizers	Yes	Yes
5(b)	Pesticides industry and pesticide specific intermediates (excluding formulations)	Yes	Yes
5(c)	Petro-chemical complexes (industries based on processing of petroleum fractions & natural gas and/or reforming to aromatics)	Yes	Yes
5(d)	Manmade fibres manufacturing	Yes	Yes
5(e)	Petroleum products and petrochemical based processing such as production of carbon black and electrode grade graphite (processes other than cracking & reformation and not covered under the complexes) ² .	Yes	Yes

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Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR			
S. No	Project/Activity	Green Field	Brown Field
5(f)	Synthetic organic chemicals industry (dyes & dye intermediates; bulk drugs and intermediates excluding drug formulations; synthetic rubbers; basic organic chemicals, other synthetic organic chemicals and chemical intermediates)	Yes	Yes
5(g)	Distilleries	Yes	Yes
5(h)	Integrated paint industry	Yes	Yes
5(i)	Pulp & paper industry	Yes	Yes
5(j)	Sugar Industry	Yes	Yes
6	Service Sectors		
6(a)	Oil & gas transportation pipe line (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks /sanctuaries/coral reefs /ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal	Yes	Yes
7	Physical Infrastructure including Environmental Services		
7(a)	Air ports	Yes	Yes
7(b)	All ship breaking yards including ship breaking units	Yes	Yes
7(c)	Industrial estates/ parks/ complexes/ areas, export processing Zones (EPZs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Biotech Parks, Leather Complexes.	Yes	Yes
7(d)	Common hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs)	Yes	Yes

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Project/Activity which can be given Standard ToR			
S. No	Project/Activity	Green Field	Brown Field
7(da)	Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities	Yes	Yes
7(e)	Ports, harbours, break waters, dredging	No	No
7(f)	Highways	No	Yes (Brownfield projects shall be placed before EAC for prescribing specific ToRs (in case of expansion projects) if the alignment crossing national parks/sanctuaries/CRZ/ ecologically sensitive areas/violation etc)
7(h)	Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)	Yes	Yes
7(i)	Common Municipal Solid Waste Management Facility (CMSWMF)	Yes	Yes
8	Building or Construction projects or Area Development projects and Townships as well as for industrial sheds, educational institutions, hospitals and hostels for educational institutions		
8(a)	Building and Construction projects	NA	NA
8(b)	Townships and Area Development Projects	Yes	Yes
