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F.No.3/3/2015-SU (Vo, II)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(SU Division)

Vayu Wing, 6th floor,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 24th November, 2016

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Department of Forests,
All States/UTs Forest Department

Sub: Gazette notification of Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016 have been published in the Gazette of India. A copy of the gazette notification is available on the site www.egazette.nic.in. A copy of the gazette notification has also been uploaded on www.ifs.nic.in.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


(Anand Krishna)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests
Telefax: 011-24695323
E-mail: sudivision@gmail.com

5168
6/12/16



भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2693]

नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, नवम्बर 16, 2016/कार्तिक 25, 1938

No. 2693]

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016/KARTIKA 25, 1938

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
(सर्वेक्षण एवं उपयोग प्रभाग)

संकल्प

नई दिल्ली, 11 नवम्बर, 2016

का.आ.3456(अ).— टी.एन. गोदावर्मन तिरुमुलपाद बनाम भारत संघ और अन्य के मामले में 1995 की रिट याचिका (सिविल) सं. 202 में भारत के माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय के दिनांक 5 अक्टूबर, 2015 के आदेश में निहित निदेशों के अनुपालन में पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार निम्नलिखित दिशानिदेश बनाता है -

1. लघु शीर्षक और प्रारम्भ

- (i) इन दिशानिदेशों को काष्ठ आधारित उद्योग (स्थापना एवं विनियमन) दिशानिदेश, 2016 कहा जाएगा।
- (ii) ये दिशानिदेश समूचे भारत के लिए लागू होंगे।
- (iii) ये सरकारी राजपत्र में अपने प्रकाशन की तारीख से प्रभावी होंगे। राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र अपने नियमों को इन दिशानिदेशों के अनुरूप बनाएंगे।

2. परिभाषा

- (i) इन दिशानिदेशों में, जब तक कि संदर्भ में अन्यथा अपेक्षित न हो -

(क) 'फर्नीचर इकाई' का अर्थ संयंत्र तथा मशीनरी और परिसर सहित इसका अहाता है जिसमें या जिसके किसी भाग में राउन्ड लॉग, जिसे एक अनुज्ञा पत्र धारी काष्ठ आधारित औद्योगिक इकाई या अन्य वैध स्रोतों से आउट सोर्स किया गया हो, को छोड़कर चूरी हुई लकड़ी, बेंत, बांस, नरकट, प्लाइवुड अथवा किसी अन्य काष्ठ आधारित का प्रयोग करके काष्ठ आधारित तैयार उत्पादों का निर्माण किया जाता है और जो किसी बेंड साँ अथवा री-साँ अथवा 30 सेंटीमीटर से अधिक व्यास के सरकुलर साँ के बिना परिचालित होता हो।

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(Survey and Utilization Division)

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 11th November, 2016

S.O. 3456(E).—In compliance of directions contained in the Order dated October 5th, 2015 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India is pleased to make the following guidelines, namely-

1. Short Title and commencement.

(i) These guidelines shall be called the Wood-Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016

(ii) These shall extend to whole of India.

(iii) These shall come into force from the date of their publication in the official gazette.

States/UTs shall conform their rules according to these guidelines.

2. Definition.

(i) In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires –

(a) **'Furniture unit'** mean plants and machinery and the premises including the precincts thereof in which or in any part thereof wood based finished products are manufactured using sawn timber, cane, bamboo, reed, plywood or any other wood based product, except a round log, outsourced from licensed wood based industrial units or other legitimate sources and operating without a band saw or re-saw or circular saw of more than thirty centimeter diameter.

(b) **'Industrial Estate'** means areas notified by the State Government or Union territory Administration for establishment of wood based industrial units.

(c) **'License'** means a license granted under these guidelines.

(d) **'Principal Chief Conservator of Forests'** means the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) in the State and it will also include an officer designated as Head of Department in State/UT where no post in the rank of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests exists.

(e) **'Round log'** means a piece of wood in its natural form, having mid girth of thirty centimeter or more under bark and it will include such round log even after its bark has been removed or its surface has been dressed, manually or by using a band saw or any other machine or equipment to make its cross section square or near to square for the purpose of ease in its transportation and or storage.

(f) **'Saw Mill'**, means plants and machinery in a fixed structure or enclosure, for conversion of round logs into sawn sizes ;

(g) **'Sawn Timber'** means beams, scantlings, planks, battens and such other product obtained from sawing of a round log.

(h) **'State Level Committee'** means a Committee Constituted by the State Government under para 3 (2) of these guidelines.

(i) **'Net Inter-State Import of a timber for Wood Based Industries'** means three years moving average of the net quantity of such timber actually imported in the State during the latest three calendar years.

(j) **'Veneer Mill or Plywood Mill'** means plants and machinery and the premises in which or in any part thereof, conversion into required size, slicing, peeling, fashioning or seasoning of timber/ wood, including preservation and treatment thereof either by mechanical or chemical process with the aid of electrical or mechanical power or manually is carried out.

(k) **'Wood Based Industry'** means any industry which processes wood as its raw material (Saw mills/veneer/plywood/pulp or any other form such as sandal, katha wood etc.). It includes a mill but does not include a furniture unit.

(l) **'Year'** means a financial year from 1st day of April to 31st day of March of the following year.

(ii) Words and expressions used but not defined under these guidelines and defined in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the relevant local Forest Act as applicable in a State, and the rules framed thereunder shall have the meaning assigned to them in such Act or Rules.

(iii) In case of any dispute regarding interpretation of any word or expression, the decision of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall be final.

3. Constitution of the State Level Committee:

(i) Each State shall constitute a State Level Committee to perform the functions stipulated in these guidelines.

(ii) The State Level Committee shall consist of the following:

a)	Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Head of Forest Department	Chairperson
b)	A representative of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Member
c)	A representative of the State Forest Department not below the rank of a Conservator of Forests dealing with preparation of Working Plans/Working Schemes	Member
d)	Director/Additional Director of Department of Industries	Member
e)	Representative of the each Autonomous District Council constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, in case any such Council exists in the State	Member
f)	Representative of the Forest Development Corporation, in case any such Corporation exists in the State.	Member
g)	An officer not below the rank of Conservator of Forests working in the Forest Head Quarters	Member Secretary

(h) The State Level Committee may nominate any other officer working in territorial wing of the Forest Department not below the rank of CF.

(iii) Such State where the composition of State Level Committee already constituted is different from as stipulated in these guideline, shall, within one year from the date of publication of these guidelines, re-constitute the State Level Committee. The reconstitution of the State Level Committee will be without any prejudice to the recommendations made or the decisions taken by the existing State Level Committee till its re-constitution.

(iv) The State Level Committee shall meet at least once in three months.

(v) The quorum of the State Level Committee meeting shall be at least fifty percent of permanent members.

(vi) SLC will invite one representative of the industry nominated by the saw-mill association as a special invitee to each and every meeting of the State Level Committee.

4. Powers and functions of the State Level Committee.

The State Level Committee shall:-

(i) Assess the availability of timber for wood based industrial units in the State/UT every five years.

(ii) Assess quantity of different raw material requirement for wood based industrial units which may be sustainably harvested from trees outside forest areas in the State/UT.

(iii) Assess annual requirement of timber and other forest produce in the domestic markets in the State.

(iv) Maintain a database of timber and other raw materials utilized by each wood based industrial unit permitted to establish and operate in the State/UT during each financial year.

(v) Approve appropriate locations for setting up of wood based industrial units.

(vi) Approve the name of wood based industrial units which may be considered for grant of fresh license or enhancement of the existing licensed capacity in case the committee is satisfied that timber is available legally for the said new Wood Based Industries (such as Trees outside forest, Forests etc.).

(vii) The State Level Committee will ensure that the amount lying with the respective State Forest Departments (recovered from Wood Based Industries) will be utilized for the purpose of afforestation only.

(viii) Examine and make appropriate recommendations on any other matter referred by the State Government or the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

5. Assessment of the availability of timber for Wood Based Industrial Units:

(i) The quantity of timber likely to be available for utilization of Wood Based Industries of different types in a State/UT shall be assessed as by commissioning study, preferably in collaboration with institutes/ universities of repute, once in five years. The study will take into account the following:- :-

- (a) The quantity of such raw material that may be sustainably harvested from the forest areas as per the working plans/working schemes/ management plans duly approved by the competent authorities.
- (b) The quantity of such raw material that is available from the trees outside forest areas, including the private plantations, agro-forestry plantations and plantations raised on non-forest government lands *etc.*
- (c) Net inter-state import of such timber; and
- (d) Net international import of such timber.

6. Estimated annual consumption of timber by wood based industries. (i) For the purpose of assessing the timber requirement of the Saw mills, they may be divided into (a) Saw mills upto 10 HP (b) Saw mills between 10 and 20 HP (c) Saw mills between 20 HP to 40 HP (d) Saw mills between 40 to 60 HP and (e) Saw mills above 60 HP.

The annual requirement of round log for Saw mills of different capacities may be fixed by the committee based on the technical data or as per the formula given below

- (a) Saw mills of 10 HP and below: 540 cu.mt. (base value)
- (b) Saw mills between 10 to 20 HP: 810 cu.mt. (1.5 time the base value)
- (c) Saw mills between 20 to 40 HP 1080 cu.mt. (2 times of the base value)
- (d) Saw mills between 40 to 60 HP 1620 cu.mt. (3 times of the base value)
- (e) Saw mills above 60 HP 2160 cu.mt. (4 times the base value)

(ii) The Timber requirement for various units as assessed by Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore is given in **Annexure I**.

7. Restriction on location of wood based industries.

(i) In the North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim the wood based industries shall be permitted to be established within the industrial estates.

(ii) In the States other than the afore-mentioned North Eastern States, wood based industries shall ordinarily be not allowed to be established within ten kilometers aerial distance from the boundary of nearest notified forests and protected areas. The State Level Committee for the reasons to be recorded in writing and after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may permit to establish/operate a wood based industry at an aerial distance less than 10 kilometers from the boundary of a notified forest or a protected area.

8. Grant, renewal and revocation of a license to a wood based industry:

(i) No license to a wood based industrial unit shall be granted or renewed without obtaining prior approval of the State Level Committee.

(ii) No wood based industrial unit shall be established/ operate in a State except under and in accordance with the license granted by an officer authorized by the State Government in this regard (Preferably DCF/DFO or equivalent).

(iii) The State Level Committee may maintain a separate list of wood based industries working solely on the timber imported from international market. The license to such industries shall specifically contain a condition to the effect that such units shall not be allowed to use timber produced in country. If in future, the said units want to use timber produced in the country on account of abundant availability they will seek specific permission from SLC to do so.

The SLC will ensure that the interests of the units using domestic produce are protected. Fresh licenses can be granted by the Committee for units which operate solely on imported raw material irrespective of the result of wood availability assessment in the State/UT.

(iv) The license granted to a wood based industry shall remain valid for five years, from the date of such issue or renewal of License. However, notwithstanding anything contained in these guidelines, the Licensing Authority may, where there are reasons to believe that the Licensee is operating the wood based industry in contravention of the provisions of these guidelines or conditions of License or any Rules framed by the State Government or is in activities prejudicial to the interest of forest conservation or public interest, at any time after giving one month notice, revoke the license granted to such wood based industry.

(v) Application for renewal of license granted to a wood based industrial unit shall be made atleast three (3) months before the expiry of validity period.

(vi) Transfer of license on sale/succession etc shall be done only with the approval of State Level Committee.

I(b)- RECEIPT REGISTER – SAWN TIMBER

Date	Name & Address of the seller from whom bought	Transit Pass			Species	Measurement [of each piece (s)]					Remarks
		Issuing Authority	No.	Date		No. of Pieces (if more than one piece is of same dimension)	Length	Width	Depth	Volume (in cum)	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.

I(c)- RECEIPT REGISTER – VENEER

Date	Name & Address of the seller from whom bought	Transit Pass			Brought from outside NE/ within NE	Whether Excise paid or otherwise (by the seller)	Species	Whether Face/Core	Measurement				Remarks
		Issuing Authority	No.	Date					Thickness (in mm)	Quantity in Sq. m.	National area (with thick as 4 mm) in sq. m	Volume (in cum)	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.

I(d) - RECEIPT REGISTER – PLYWOOD, MDF, PARTICLE, BOARD etc

Date	Name & Address of the seller from whom bought	Transit Pass (if applicable) or carting Challan			Brought from outside NE/ within NE	Whether Excise paid or otherwise (by the seller)	Type of plywood, MDF, Particle Board	Measurement				Remarks
		Issuing Authority	No.	Date				Thickness (in mm)	Quantity in Sq. m.	National area (with thick as 4 mm) in sq. m	Volume (in cum)	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.

PROFORMA –II (CONVERSION REGISTER)

(Prescribed under guidelines issued by Ministry of Environment & Forests in compliance of Supreme Court order dated 05.10.2015 in W.P. © No. 202/95)

Name of the Wood –Based Unit

Forest Division

Register Opened on

II (a) - CONVERSION REGISTER-SAWN TIMBER

Date	Species	Round timber used		Sawn timber produced		Remarks
		No. of logs	Volume cum	No. of Pcs.	Volume (in cum)	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.

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IV (b) STOCK REGISTER- ROUND TIMBER

Date	Species	Opening Stock		Received during the day (from outside the unit)		Converted from Round timber		Sold/ Returned in sawn		Used for veneer/ Plywood making (if any)		Closing stock		Remarks
		No. of Pcs	Volume cum	No. of Pcs	Volume (in cum)	No. of Pcs	Volume (in cum)	No. of Pcs	Volume (in cum)	No. of Pcs.	Volume (in cum)	No. of Pcs	Volume (in cum)	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.

IV (c) STOCK REGISTER- VENEER

Date	Species	Opening Stock			Received during the day (from outside the unit)			Converted from Round/ Sawn timber			Veneer Sold/ Returned (dispatched outside the unit)			Used for Plywood making			Closing stock			Remarks	
		Thick (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thick (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thick (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thick (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thick (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thick (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	

IV (d)

STOCK REGISTER- PLYWOOD

Date	Type of Ply-wood	Opening Stock			Received during the day (from outside the unit)			Converted from Veneer Round/ Sawn timber			Plywood Sold/ Returned/ dispatched outside the unit			Closing stock			Remarks	
		Thickness (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thickness (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thickness (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thickness (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)	Thickness (in mm)	Face area (in sq. m)	Volume (in cum)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	

- Note 1: Daily, weekly & monthly species wise abstract of opening stock, receipts, timber used for sawing, veneer/ plywood making, dispatched outside the unit and closing stock of sawn timber, veneer is to be recorded.
- Note2: Six major commercial species for timber, sawn timber and veneer are to be mentioned individually. The others may be clubbed under miscellaneous category. Exact categorization is to be decided by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
- Note 3: Only the proforma application for the particular units to be filled in for example. Saw Mills unit are required to fill in only IV (a) and IV (b), IV (c) and IV (d) are not required to be filled in.

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6**

**ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
NOTIFICATION**

Dated Dispur, the 21st December, 2017

No.FRM.217/2011/154 : In pursuance of the Guideline 3(i) (ii) of Wood Based Industries (Establishment & Regulation) Guidelines 2016 as amended up to 2017 the Governor of Assam is pleased to constitute the State Level Committee (SLC) with the following Members :-

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF | - | Chairperson |
| 2. The Secretary, Environment and Forest Department as Govt. nominee | - | Member |
| 3. A Representative of the Regional Office of the Ministry Environment, Forests & Climate Change | - | Member |
| 4. A Representative of State Forest Department not below the rank of Conservator of Forests dealing with preparation of working plans/working schemes. The CF (Development), O/o the CCF, RE & WP | - | Member. |
| 5. Director/Additional Director, Industries & Commerce | - | Member |
| 6. Representative of Each Autonomous District Council | - | Member |
| Constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the constitution, in case any such Council exists in the States. | - | Member |
| 7. An Officer not below the rank of Conservator of Forests(HQ) in the O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Assam | - | Member |
| | | Secretary |

Sd/- A.Baruah, IAS

Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forests Department
Dated Dispur, the 21st December, 2017

Memo No. FRM.217/2011/154 - A,
Copy to:-

1. The Accountant General, Assam, Maidamgaon, Beltola, Guwahati-29.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Wildlife, Basistha, Guwahati-29.
4. All Chief Conservator of Forest
5. All Conservator of Forest,
6. The All Divisional Forests Officer,
7. Member concerned.
8. P.S. to Minister, Environment & Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
9. P.S. to Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment & Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
10. The Deputy Director, Assam Govt. Press, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati-21 for necessary action.

By order etc.,


Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Environment and Forests Department

&

F.No.3-3/2015-SU (Vol. IV)

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(SU Division)

Agni Wing, 5th floor,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 18th September, 2017

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Department of Forests,
All States/UTs Forest Department

Sub: Gazette notification of Amendment in Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Amendment in Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016 have been published in the Gazette of India on 12th September, 2017 (copy enclosed). A copy of the gazette notification is available on the site www.egazette.nic.in.

This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



(A.K. Mohanty)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Telefax: 24695273

Encl.As Above



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भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2625]

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, सितम्बर 12, 2017/भाद्र 21, 1939

No. 2625]

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017/BHADRA 21, 1939

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

(सर्वेक्षण और उपयोग प्रभाग)

संकल्प

नई दिल्ली, 11 सितम्बर, 2017

विषय: काष्ठ आधारित उद्योग (स्थापना और विनियमन) दिशानिर्देश, 2016 में संशोधन।

का.आ. 3000(अ).—टी.एन. गोदावर्मन थिरूमलपाद बनाम भारत संघ एवं अन्य के मामले में 1995 की रिट याचिका (सिविल) सं. 202 में भारत के माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के आदेश दिनांक 5 अक्टूबर, 2015 में अंतर्विष्ट निदेशों के अनुपालन में पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार ने दिनांक 11 नवम्बर, 2016 के संकल्प के द्वारा काष्ठ आधारित उद्योग (स्थापना और विनियमन) दिशानिर्देश, 2016 जारी किये थे। इन दिशानिर्देशों पर राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्यक्षेत्रों सहित विभिन्न हितधारकों से प्राप्त टिप्पणियों/ विचारों के आधार पर भारत सरकार ने दिशानिर्देशों को निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित करने का विनिश्चय किया है:—

1. दिशानिर्देशों के पैरा —2(I) के अधीन प्रविष्टियों को निम्नलिखित से प्रतिस्थापित किया गया है:

(i) इन दिशानिर्देशों में जब तक कि संदर्भ से अन्यथा अपेक्षित न हो:—

(क) 'औद्योगिक सम्पदा' से राज्य सरकार या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र प्रशासन द्वारा काष्ठ आधारित उद्योगों की स्थापना के लिए अधिसूचित क्षेत्र अभिप्रेत है।

(ख) 'लाइसेंस' से किसी राज्य / संघ राज्यक्षेत्र द्वारा इन दिशानिर्देशों के अनुपालन में अधिसूचित नियमों के अधीन दिया गया लाइसेंस अभिप्रेत है।

(Survey and Utilization Division)

RESOLUTION

New Delhi, the 11th September, 2017

Subject: Amendment in Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016.

S.O. 3000(E).—In compliance of directions contained in the order dated October 5th, 2015 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India vide Resolution dated 11th November, 2016 had issued Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines,

2016. Based on the comments/observations received from various stakeholders, including State Governments/UTs on these guidelines, the Government of India has decided to amend the guidelines as under:—

1. The entries under Para-2 (i) of the Guidelines are substituted with the following:

- (i) In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:—
 - (a) 'Industrial Estate' means areas notified by the State Government or Union Territory Administration for establishment of wood based industries.
 - (b) 'License' means a license granted under the rules notified by a State/UT in pursuance of these guidelines.
 - (c) 'Principal Chief Conservator of Forests' means a Forest officer of the rank of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in a State/UT and it also includes an officer designated as Head of Forest Department in a State/UT where no post in the rank of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests exists.
 - (d) 'Round log' means a piece of wood in its natural form, having mid girth of thirty centimeter or more under bark and it includes such round log even after its bark has been removed or its surface has been dressed, manually or by using a band saw or any other machine or equipment to make its cross section square or near-square for the purpose of ease in its transportation and/or storage.
 - (e) 'Saw Mill' means plants and machinery in a fixed structure or enclosure, for conversion of round logs into sawn timber.
 - (f) 'Sawn timber' means beams, scantlings, planks, battens and such other product obtained from sawing of a round log.
 - (g) 'State Level Committee' means a committee constituted by the State Government under para 3 (2) of these guidelines.
 - (h) 'Wood Based Industry' means any industry which processes wood as its raw material (Saw mills/veneer/plywood or any other form such as sandal, katha wood etc.).

2. The entries under Para- 3 (h) of these guidelines are substituted with the following:—

The State Level Committee may co-opt an officer from Territorial wing of the Forest Department not below the rank of CF and officers from Department of Agriculture and Department of Revenue of the concerned State/UT.

3. The entries under Para- 4 of these guidelines are substituted with the following:—

The State Level Committee (SLC) shall: —

- i. *assess the availability of timber in the state by way of appropriate study on demand and supply as and when it decides. SLC shall devise suitable mechanism for sustainable use of timber in a way that does not affect the forests of the area adversely.*
- ii. *approve the name of wood based industries which may be considered for grant of fresh license or enhancement of the existing licensed capacity in case the SLC is satisfied that timber is available legally for the said new Wood Based Industries (such as Trees outside forest, Forests etc.).*
- iii. *ensure that the amount lying with the respective State Forest Departments (recovered from Wood Based Industries) is utilized for the purpose of afforestation only.*
- iv. *examine and make appropriate recommendations or any other matter referred by the State Government to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.*

4. The entries under Para- 5 of these guidelines are omitted.

5. The entries under Para-7 (ii) of these Guidelines are substituted with the following:—

- (a) *In the States/UTs (other than North Eastern States), in respect of distance from the boundary of nearest notified forests or protected areas, wood based industries shall be allowed to operate as per state-specific order/approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court/Hon'ble High Court of the concerned state/Central Empowered Committee;*

Or, beyond ten kilometers of aerial distance from the boundary of nearest notified forests or protected areas, excluding roadside/railway side/canal side plantations, whichever is less.

- (b) A Wood Based Industry can be established in an Industrial Estate or a Municipal area, irrespective of the aerial distance from the boundary of nearest notified forest or protected area.

6. The entries under Para- 8 of the Guidelines are substituted with the following:—

- i. No license to a wood based industry shall be granted or renewed without obtaining prior approval of the SLC. However, a SLC may delegate the power of renewal of license to a wood based industry to the Divisional Forest officers of the concerned Forest Divisions.
- ii. Following industries/processing plants not using round logs of domestic origin or operating without a band saw or re-saw or circular saw of more than thirty centimeter diameter shall not require license.

Industries/processing plants which use:

- a. sawn timber, cane, bamboo, reed, plywood, veneers or imported wood, procured from legitimate sources
- b. block board, MDF or similar wood-based products, procured from legitimate sources
- c. round log/timber from species declared as agro-forestry/agricultural crops and/or exempted from the purview of the felling and transit regime in the concerned state/UT, and procured from legitimate sources

However, SLCs of the concerned State may allow installation of circular saw of diameter upto 30 centimeter in such industries having specialized requirement.

Such industries shall be registered with the Forest Department of the concerned state/UT and shall be regulated, details of which are to be prescribed by the concerned state/UT.

- iii. Transfer of license on sale/succession etc shall be done only with the approval of SLC.

7. The entries under Para-9 (iii) of the Guidelines are substituted with the following:—

If, for any reason, any person is aggrieved by the orders so passed in the appeal, he may prefer an appropriate petition/application/appeal in the High Court having jurisdiction over the concerned State/UT.

8. The entries under Para-10 of these Guidelines are omitted.

9. The entries under Para-11 (i) of the Guidelines are substituted with the following:—

Each wood based industry shall maintain and regularly update records as per the formats, which may be prescribed by the concerned State/UT.

10. The Schedule to the Guidelines is deleted.

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SOUMITRA DASGUPTA, Inspector General of Forests