

Clarifications to Version 3 of the Scheme
October 3, 2017

Accreditation Scheme for EIA Consultant Organisations – Version 3: Clarifications -

Further to Clarifications issued on Dec 27, 2016, the following additional clarifications to the Scheme will become effective immediately:

Sl. No.	Clarifications
1.	<p>Functional Area requirements (Ref Annexure – IIA page 117) of the Scheme) –</p> <p>a. Functional Area – Noise and Vibration (NV):</p> <p>It is proposed that the Functional Area Vibration will be required only for vibration intensive Sectors namely; Sector 1 - Mines (involving blasting), Sector 29 – Airports and Sector 34 – Highways. This can be filled by In-house or Empanelled experts.</p> <p>b. Functional Area Solid and Hazardous Waste Management (SHW):</p> <p>In accordance with MoEF&CC Notifications on Waste Management in 2016, the Functional Area SHW will now comprise -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Hazardous Waste (HW) including Plastic waste, E-waste, ISW (Industrial Solid Waste) ii. Solid Waste (SW) including Construction and Demolition (C & D) Waste iii. Bio-medical Waste (BMW) <p>Functional area ISW is now a part of HW. Since out of HW, ISW is the main concern for Group 2 (Power, Cement, Glass and Ceramic), a FAE (In-house or Empanelled) knowledgeable in ISW would be adequate for these Sectors.</p> <p>c. Functional Area Air Quality (AQ):</p> <p>Requirement of AQ is Core FA requirement for Group 1 & 2 as per the Scheme. Now other than Sectors 4 (Power) and 9 (Cement), the FA-AQ can be covered by either In-house or Empanelled experts.</p>
2.	<p>Fulfilling the requirements of Functional areas (Ref Annexure – IIA page 117 of the Scheme) –</p> <p>To address non-fulfilment or partial fulfilment of FAE requirements as per Annexure IIA by some AO/ACOs, Item 2 of ‘Clarifications to Version 3 of the Scheme, dt. Dec 27, 2016’ is replaced by –</p> <p>a. After the office assessment, NABET assessors will inform the AO/ACO of shortfalls, if any, in respect of core and significant functional areas, as applicable. The assessors will also inform the AO/ACO about non-compliance in QMS to Version 3, if any.</p> <p>b. When FAE requirements of none of the Sectors applied/ approved is fulfilled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. If an AO/ACO does not meet the requirement of FAEs of any of the Sectors, it will be given 3 month’s time to fulfil the same. For ACOs, the earlier approved Sectors (if applied) will continue to be reflected against its name in the NABET list of ACOs. In case the AO/ACO is not able to fulfil the requirements even after 3 months, it may be given another 3 months

	<p>provided there is justifiable rationale based on the efforts put in by it. During this period for ACO, the Sectors approved earlier (if applied) will continue to be reflected in the NABET list of ACOs. In both the above cases, a noting that 'FAE requirement fulfilling is in process' will be mentioned.</p> <p>ii. In case the AO/ACO does not fulfil the FAE requirements of any of the Sectors after 6 months of the office assessment, the same shall expire. The application of the AO will be closed and the ACO will lose its accreditation. Should they wish to get accredited, they will need to apply afresh as per IA norms.</p> <p>c. When FAE requirement of some of the Sectors applied/ approved is fulfilled:</p> <p>i. If an AO/ACO meets the core and significant FA requirements of some of the Sectors applied/approved after office assessment and AC meeting, such Sectors will be approved. The balance earlier approved Sectors of the ACO (if applied) shall be retained in the NABET list of ACOs against its scope of accreditation for next 3 months from the date of communication by NABET secretariat with a noting that 'FAE requirement fulfilling is in process'. After the expiry of this period, the Sectors for which FAE requirements are still not fulfilled, will be deleted from the list.</p> <p>ii. For AO/ACO falling in above category (c.- i.), the balance Sectors may be approved as and when they fulfil all requirements of FAEs. The AO/ACO needs to give an undertaking to NABET that all relevant FAEs are available.</p> <p>d. The Accreditation cycle for the AO/ACO will be guided by the date of Initial accreditation irrespective of above procedures.</p>
3.	<p>Accreditation Fees (Ref. Appendix D page 81 of the Scheme) -</p> <p>The following will be applicable:</p> <p>a. Expansion in scope of accreditation – Rs. 30,000/-</p> <p>b. Document Assessment (Stage I) - Half man day charge</p>
4.	<p>Time cycle of accreditation (Ref. Section 10.2 sub clause 10.2.1, page 24 of the Scheme) –</p> <p>As per accreditation mechanism, maintaining the time cycle of accreditation is a fundamental requirement. The accreditation cycle for an organisation starts with its entry to the Scheme i.e. from the last date of office assessment based on which the Initial Accreditation (IA) was granted. In view of the above, Section 10.2.1 (Page 24) may be read in conjunction with Section C 1.0 (Page 60 Para 3) – 'RA comes 18 months after SA i.e., on completion of 3 years after IA'.</p>
5.	<p>An ACO losing a Sector or Category A status in a Sector due to leaving of the lone EC in that Sector and the EIA is due for public hearing or presentation in EAC/SEAC -</p> <p>In such cases, the following will be applicable -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On request from the ACO, NABET will permit the ACO to complete the work in-hand taking due diligence. However, the ACO must refrain from taking up further projects in that Sector till the deficiency is made good by the ACO. 2. The EIA prepared may be presented by another ACO accredited for the relevant Sector and the category provided the second ACO owns up the report after due validation (vide Annexure 1).

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING/VALIDATING EIA REPORTS

Sometimes due to specific reasons explained hereunder, a project proponent (PP) may change the QCI-NABET Accredited EIA Consultant Organisation (ACO) before the EIA could be finalised or presented to the concerned EAC/SEAC. The reasons for changing a NABET ACO could be any of the following -

- i. The concerned EC leaves the ACO midway and the ACO does not have another EC for the said Sector, resulting in ACO losing the Sector for which the EIA was prepared or being prepared.
- ii. Due to dispute between the ACO and the PP.
- iii. The ACO does not want to continue in the EIA business and unable to complete/ present the EIA to EAC/SEAC.
- iv. The EIA work was awarded by the PP to a Consultant organisation not accredited by QCI-NABET or the accreditation does not cover the relevant Sector. Since, MoEF&CC Notification dated March 3, 2016 requires only accredited consultants for preparing and presenting EIAs, the PP wants to award the EIA to an ACO.

In case of **point (i, ii, iii)** above, the balance work for the EIA can be awarded to an ACO or the completed EIA can be presented to the EAC/SEAC by another ACO, who meets the requirements mentioned below/ performs necessary due diligence including the following :

1. EIA Report not yet completed (under progress) –

- a. The new ACO shall review the TOR and the contract document of the EIA that is being re-awarded.
- b. All the required FAEs and EC (of relevant Category) as per the requirements of NABET shall be available with the new ACO.
- c. The existing report shall be studied by all concerned FAEs and the EC and a detailed status report shall be prepared of incompleteness/inadequacies and activities to be undertaken to complete/supplement the report satisfactorily.
- d. Excerpts or sections from the existing report should be adopted only after the same are reviewed thoroughly by the concerned FAE/EC. Balance part of the EIA to be prepared developed as per NABET Scheme Version 3.
- e. A site visit of EC and all required FAEs shall be mandatory and adequate field notes shall be maintained for verification by NABET.
- f. In case the baseline monitoring jobs were completed by the earlier consultant, the same shall be assessed for their completeness as per TOR.
- g. Such baseline data shall be cross checked with existing secondary data from reputed sources.
- h. New ACO shall clearly mention the source of each set of secondary data and ensure that due credit to previously engaged organisation is given in the reference.
- i. In case there are no secondary data available for cross checking the existing data then some limited monitoring should be carried out as follows :
 - Ambient air quality - limited monitoring shall be undertaken for **at least one fortnight** at 10% of the previously monitored locations (at least at one location) preferably during the season when the original monitoring was done.
 - Water, soil, noise - **at least 10%** (minimum one station) of water, soil and noise data

shall be repeated.

- j. In case the season of original baseline monitoring and that of validation differ, an analysis will be done by the new ACO about appropriateness of the existing results taking in account the relevant factors and the same will be reported in the EIA report.
- k. In case the baseline monitoring was not completed by the previous consultant organisation, the data shall be generated freshly by the new ACO as per TOR (the old incomplete baseline data will not be used).

2. EIA Report completed but not presented to EAC/SEAC (for validation of completed EIA for presentation) –

- a. To follow points 1 (a, b & c) above.
- b. EC with concerned FAEs must visit the site to familiarise with site conditions and assess if TOR points have been covered in the EIA adequately.
- c. Cross check the important base line data with secondary sources.
- d. If suitable secondary sources are not available, follow point 1 (i) above
- e. An addendum on how the report was validated for its correctness and completeness to be prepared. Supplementary information, if necessary, may be included on this Addendum.

- 3. The ownership and responsibility of EIA shall be with Project Proponent (PP) and the ACO who have completed/ validated/ updated it. The earlier organisation shall not be able to claim it as their experience under the NABET Scheme.

In case of **point (iv)**, it is likely that the EIA was done under the supervision of unapproved experts and therefore cannot be considered for re-award to new accredited consultant. It needs a fresh EIA under NABET approved ECs and FAEs.

Abbreviations:

ACO:	Accredited Consultant Organization
AO:	Applicant Organisation
AQ:	Meteorology, air quality modelling and prediction
BMW:	Bio-medical Waste
C&D:	Construction and Demolition Waste
EAC:	Expert Appraisal Committee
EC:	EIA Coordinator
EIA:	Environmental Impact Assessment
FA:	Functional Area
FAE:	Functional Area Expert
HW:	Hazardous Waste
IA:	Initial Accreditation
ISW:	Industrial Solid Waste
MoEF&CC:	Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change
NABET:	National Accreditation Board for Education and Training

NV: Noise and Vibration
PP: Project Proponent
QCI: Quality Council of India
QMS: Quality Management System
RA: Re-accreditation
SA: Surveillance Assessment
SEAC: State Level Expert Appraisal Committee
SHW: Solid and Hazardous Waste
SW: Solid Waste
TOR: Term of Reference
