



Clarifications to Version 3 of the Scheme December 27, 2016

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

Version 3 of the Scheme became effective from June 15, 2015. Since then many issues faced during assessments were discussed in various QCI-NABET meetings. The following clarifications to the Scheme will become effective from Jan 30, 2017:

| Sl. No. | Clarifications |
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| 1. | <p>Clause 5.1.7, sub-clause f (page 11) of the Scheme - relating to eligibility of 'Partners in partnership firms' as an empanelled expert: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>Partners in partnership firms may be accepted as empanelled experts. This will be subject to submission of written consent / no objection agreement from all other partners in respect of the said partner working for other ACOs as an empanelled expert. The written consent / no objection agreement needs to be submitted by the AO/ACO with its application. Such a person can be empanelled with maximum 3 AOs/ACOs.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Clause 7.4 c, (page 18) of the Scheme - Effectiveness of Office Assessment (IA/SA/RA) : the following will be applicable -</p> <p>a. Initial Accreditation (IA) – After the office assessment, NABET Assessors will inform the AO of shortfalls, if any, in respect of core and significant functional areas, as applicable. The assessors will also inform the AO about non-compliance of the QMS, if any, to Version 3. These will be recorded and signed by both, the assessors and the AO. The AO will be required to fulfill such shortfalls within 3 months of the office assessment. The AO may be given another 3 months' time to fulfill the requirements of the Scheme provided there is justifiable rationale based on the efforts put in by the AO. The office assessment will expire at the end of 6 months. An AO needs to apply afresh and undergo the entire process of assessment, should it wish to pursue accreditation under the Scheme.</p> <p>b. Surveillance Assessment (SA) and Re-accreditation (RA) – After the office assessment, NABET Assessors will inform the ACO of shortfalls, if any, in complying with requirements of Version 3 of the Scheme, which will be recorded and signed by both, the assessors and the ACO. The ACO would be given 3 months' time to meet the shortfalls, till that time its name will be retained in List A* of the ACOs on QCI-NABET website. If it fails to fulfill the above, its name will be shifted to List B* of ACOs who do not meet all requirements of Version 3 of the Scheme. It will be given further 3 months' time to meet the requirements, provided there is justifiable rationale based on the efforts put in by the ACO, failing which it will forfeit its accreditation and its name will be deleted from List B. An ACO, who forfeits accreditation as mentioned above, has to apply afresh as per IA norms, should it wish to come back to the Scheme.</p> <p><i>*Note:</i> <i>List A – ACOs complying with requirements of Version 3.</i> <i>List B – ACOs not complying with requirements of Version 3.</i></p> |

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| 3. | <p>Clause 9.2.1, (page 21) of the Scheme - Lone approved EC leaving an ACO: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>In case, the only EC approved for a sector leaves an ACO, NABET should be immediately informed. The ACO must refrain from taking fresh EIAs in that Sector till it has an EC assessed and approved by NABET for the ACO for that Sector. However, the on-going EIAs in that Sector, if any, may be completed taking due diligence and doing justice to such EIAs.</p> |
| 4. | <p>Clause 11.0, (page 26) of the Scheme - Grievance redressing mechanism: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>Request for 'Review of decision' and / or 'Appeal' must be made by an AO / ACO within 90 days of uploading the results of assessments/Review (as applicable) by NABET on its website or informing the concerned AO/ACO by mail, whichever is earlier. No request will be entertained after 90 days.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Clause A 2.3.3, (page 39) of the Scheme - Meteorology, air quality modelling and prediction: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>Generation of primary micro-meteorological parameters namely wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity, atmospheric pressure, rainfall (precipitation) and cloud cover are to be covered by the FAE - AQ.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Clause A 2.3.10, (page 44) of the Scheme - Qualification for FAE Soil Conservation: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>M.Sc. Environmental Science is added to the list of qualifications for FAE Soil Conservation mentioned in Version 3 of the Scheme.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Clause A 2.3.12, (page 46) of the Scheme - Solid and hazardous waste management: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has issued the following Notifications in respect of Waste Management in March-April, 2016 -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. G.S.R. 320 (E) [18-03-2016]: Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 b. G.S.R. 338 (E) [23-03-2016]: e-waste (Management) Rules, 2016. c. G.S.R. 343(E). [28-03-2016]: Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. d. G.S.R. 317(E). [29-03-2016]: Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016 e. G.S.R No. 395 (E) [04-04-2016]: Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016. f. S.O. 1357(E) [08-04-2016]: Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 - cover all domestic, institutional, commercial and any other Non-residential solid wastes except HW, Hazardous Chemicals, Bio-medical wastes, e-wastes, radio-active waste and lead acid batteries. <p><i>*Note for ISW: The high volume low effect wastes such as fly ash, Phosphogypsum, red mud, jarosite, Slags from pyrometallurgical operations, mine tailings and ore beneficiation rejects are excluded from the category of hazardous wastes. Separate guidelines on the management of these wastes shall be issued by Central Pollution Control GSR 320(E)</i></p> <p>In keeping with the above Notifications, the ISW component in the Scheme is now merged with HW. e-waste and Bio-medical waste are added in the Functional Area SHW. This FA will now comprise –</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW - Solid Waste including MSW and C&D waste • HW - Hazardous Waste including plastic & e-wastes and ISW • BMW - Bio-Medical Waste <p>For SW and HW, the educational qualification and experience will be same as mentioned in the Scheme. In addition, the FAE covering these components of the functional area should also be knowledgeable and have exposure to the aspects mentioned in the above Notifications. Refer the point below for requirements of FAE Bio-medical waste.</p> <p>Note: For group 2 (sectors 4, 9, 40 iv) of Annexure II A of the Scheme, availability of an approved FAE ISW addressing the requirement of ISW in the FA HW as above, will be adequate.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Clause A 2.3.12, (page 46) of the Scheme - Solid and hazardous waste management: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>For FAE Bio-medical waste, the educational qualification and experience requirements will be as follows:</p> <p>a. Educational qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Engineering and professional degrees - Chemical/ Chemical Technology/ Civil/ Environmental / Bio-technology/ Bio-medical / MBBS / and allied discipline <li style="text-align: center;">or ii. Master's degree in Science like Toxicology/ Chemistry/ Bio-chemistry / Microbiology / Biotechnology and the like <p>b. Experience specific to functional area must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Knowledge of BMW Rules ii. Segregation, handling, collection and transportation of bio-medical waste iii. Safe storage, treatment, incineration and disposal of BMW iv. Knowledge of occupational safety of health care workers and others involved in handling of biomedical waste v. It is also expected that the expert has the following knowledge/experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate knowledge of EIA Legislations process in India • Contribution to EIA documentation or work akin to EIA <p>c. Training (preferable)</p> <p>Training on identification, collection, handling, storage, treatment and disposal of bio-medical wastes</p> |
| 9. | <p>Clause A 3, (page 49) of the Scheme - Role of Mentor: the following will be applicable -</p> <p>An approved Functional Area Associate can work for Cat. B projects as a FAE under guidance of a Mentor. A Mentor can also guide FAEs and TMs in FAs that s/he is approved for.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Clause C 4.1, Note c (page 69) of the Scheme - provision of 'continue by default': the following will be applicable -</p> <p>The provision of 'continue by default' provided in Version 3 of the Scheme in Surveillance Assessment is discontinued, as it is important to assess whether the approved experts keep themselves updated in their respective fields even if they had not been specifically involved in preparation of EIAs since their last assessment. Such experts will be assessed as per IA norms with emphasis on update in their knowledge level.</p> |

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| 11. | <p>Clause C 5.6, (page 76) of the Scheme RA Application Annexure 1B modification in the improvements achieved: the provisions given under this clause stand modified as follows -</p> <p>The format for reporting 'Improvement Achieved' in RA application form will be as follows:</p> |
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Improvements achieved

| Sl. No. | Criteria | To be filled by ACO | Assessors' observations | Marks allotted | Marks scored |
|---------|--|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Description of project site (0.5) and environmental settings (1) | | | 1.5 | |
| 2 | Process description, PFD, pollution sources (1), mass balance (1), if applicable. | | | 2.0 | |
| 3 | Baseline data (BD) – description of methodology and completeness of data collected - physical environment: air, water, noise, soil (1), EB and SE (1) | | | 2.0 | |
| 4 | Interpretation and utilization of BD in prediction of impacts (qualitative and quantitative) and recommendation of mitigation measures - physical environment : air, water, noise, soil (1), EB & SE (1.5) | | | 2.5 | |
| 5 | EMP and Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) with budgetary provisions | | | 2.0 | |
| Total | | | | 10 | |

| 12. | <p>Annexure II, (page 116) of the Scheme - Project Sectors : the following will be applicable - Subsequent to MoEFCC Notification S.O. 1142(E) dated Apr 17, 2015, on Bio-medical waste, a new sector is added under Sector 32 as Sector 32A-</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">S. No.</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Sector</th> <th style="text-align: center;">As per MoEFCC Notification</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Tick</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">32 A</td> <td>Bio-medical waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 (da)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ACOs accredited for Sector 32, will need to have an in-house or empanelled FAE BMW, who would work under guidance of EC for Sector 32. The qualification and experience requirements for the FAE BMW are mentioned above (point 8). ii. AOs/ACOs who are not accredited for Sector 32, will need to meet the requirements of this Sector and the FAE BMW as mentioned above for getting accreditation under Sector 32 A. | S. No. | Sector | As per MoEFCC Notification | Tick | 32 A | Bio-medical waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities | 7 (da) | |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|------|-------------|--|---------------|--|
| S. No. | Sector | As per MoEFCC Notification | Tick | | | | | | |
| 32 A | Bio-medical waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities | 7 (da) | | | | | | | |

Abbreviations:

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| ACO: | Accredited Consultant Organization |
| AO: | Applicant Organisation |
| AQ: | Meteorology, air quality modelling and prediction |
| BD: | Baseline Data |
| BMW: | Bio Medical Waste |
| C&D: | Construction and demolition |
| Cat.: | Category |
| EB: | Ecology & Biodiversity |
| EC: | EIA Coordinator |
| EIA: | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EMoP: | Environmental Monitoring Plan |
| EMP: | Environmental Management Plan |
| FA: | Functional Area |
| FAE: | Functional Area Expert |
| HW: | Hazardous Waste |
| IA: | Initial Accreditation |
| ISW: | Industrial Solid Waste |
| MoEFCC: | Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change |
| MSW: | Municipal Solid Waste |
| NABET: | National Accreditation Board for Education and Training |
| PFD: | Process Flow Diagram |
| QCI: | Quality Council of India |
| QMS: | Quality Management System |
| RA: | Re-accreditation |
| SA: | Surveillance Assessment |
| SE: | Socio-Economic |
| SHW: | Solid and Hazardous Waste |
| SW: | Solid Waste |
| TM: | Team Member |
