Recommendation No.- 258- Publish a well-defined inspection procedure and checklist on department's website- Inspection by Appropriate Authority for felling trees (prior to commencement of construction activities)

# (Ref: <u>http://industries.bih.nic.in</u>)



Compliance Report on Business Reform Action Plan 2016: Bihar



Guidebook on application & inspection procedure for obtaining NOC/Transit Permit for Tree felling/transportation

GUIDEBOOK ON APPLICATION AND INSPECTION PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING NOC/TRANSIT PERMIT FOR TREE FELLING/TRANSPORTATION



**ENVIRONMENT & FOREST DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF BIHAR** 

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# A. Obtaining NOC For Felling Of Trees On Forest Land Prior To Commencement Of Construction Activities

A.1.Introduction				
Name of Service	NOC for felling of trees on Forest Land prior to commencement of construction activities from Tree Authority/Appropriate Authority.			
Regulatory Framework	Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.			
Application Method	Manual or Online.			
	• Application in Form 'A' for proposals seeking first time			
Application Processing Fee (if any) and Mode of Payment	Nil.			
Key Approving Authority	Ministry of Environment & Forest, GoI.			
Prescribed Timeline for service delivery (from date of application)	210 days.			

# A.1.Introduction

# A.2. Application and approval procedure

#	Process Details:
1.	Submit the application in the Form 'A' if seeking first time approval under the Act or in Form
	'B' for seeking renewal of leases along with all necessary documents as listed above to the
	State Environment & Forest Department.
2.	On submission, the respective User Agency will get a receipt from State E&F Department.
3.	The State Environment & Forest Department after having received the proposal shall process & forward it to the Central Government within a period of 210 days of receipt of proposal including the transit period.
4.	The State Environment & Forest Department after having received the proposal and on being satisfied that the proposal is complete in all respects and requires prior approval under the section 2 of the Act, shall send the proposal to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer within a period of 10 days of receipt of proposal.
5.	If the Nodal Officer of State Environment & Forest Department finds that the proposal is incomplete, he shall return it within the period of 10 days to the concerned User Agency/Industry and this time period shall not be counted for any future reference.
6.	The Divisional Forest Officer or the Conservator of Forests shall examine the factual details and feasibility of the proposal, certify the maps, carry out site-inspection and enumeration of the trees and forward these findings in the Formats specified in this regard to the Nodal Officer, State E& F Department, within a period of 90 days of the receipt of such proposal from him.
7.	The State Nodal Officer, through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, shall forward the proposal to State Government along with his recommendations, within a period of 30 days of the receipt of such proposal from the Divisional Forest Officer or the Conservator of Forests.
8.	The State Government as the case may be shall forward the complete proposal, along with its recommendations, to the regional office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, or to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the specified Forms within a period of 60 days of the receipt of the proposal from the Nodal Officer.
9.	If the proposal, along with the recommendations, is not received from the concerned State Government till 15 days of the expiry of the time limit, it shall be construed that the concerned State Government has rejected the proposal and the concerned State Government shall inform the User Agency accordingly.
10.	These proposals shall be processed and put up before the Forest Advisory Committee and the recommendations of the Committee shall be placed within a period of ninety days (90) of the receipt of such proposals from the State Government before the Central Government for its decision.
11.	If Central Government approves the proposal then approval will be sent to the applicant agency through State government.



- ✓ Under the Forest Act 1980 Ministry of Environment and Forest, MoEF, GoI is the nodal department for issuing tree cutting permission on Forest Land.
- ✓ All proposals relating to diversion of forest land up to 40 hectare will be forwarded by State government to the Chief Conservator of Forests or Conservator of Forests of the concerned regional office of MoEF for approval.
- ✓ All proposals relating to diversion of forest land of more than 40 hectare will be forwarded by State government to the Secretary, MoEF, GoI for approval.
- ✓ Whenever any proposal for diversion of forest land is submitted, it should be accompanied by a resolution of the 'Aam Sabha' of gram Panchayat/Local Body of the endorsing the proposal that the project is in the interest of people living in and around the proposed forest land except in cases wherever consent of the local people in one form or another has been obtained by the State or the project proponents and the same is indicated in the proposal explicitly.

# **B.** Obtaining NoC For Felling Of Trees On Government Land (Non-Forest) Prior To Commencement Of Construction Activities.

Name of Service	NOC for felling of trees on Govt. Land (Non-Forest) prior to commencement of construction activities from Tree Authority/Appropriate Authority.
Regulatory Framework	Tree felling and Transit Regulations in the State of BIHAR.
Application Method	Manual.
	10. Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.
Application Processing Fee (if any) and Mode of Payment	Nil.
Key Approving Authority	Divisional Forest Officer.
	Yes.
Prescribed Timeline for service delivery (from date of application)	27 days.

#### B.1. Introduction

# **B.2. Application and approval procedure**

#	Process Details:
1.	Give the prior information of tree felling to the office of Divisional Forest Officer.
2.	A joint enumeration will be carried out by the concerned user agency & the officials of forest department within 20 days of receipt of information at the office of divisional forest officer.
3.	Afterwards, orders for tree feeling will get issued to the user agency/industry by the divisional forest officer within seven (7) days of receipt of joint enumeration report.
4.	Deputation of an official from the forest department will be made for observation & logging of trees. Also, necessary direction for storage of felled off trees will also be given in the same orders.
5.	As a part of compensatory afforestation the user agency/industry will have to plant trees 3 times higher than the total number of felled off trees either on the same land or any other land identified for this purpose by the E & F department.
6.	All expenses incurred on tree felling, its logging & transportation (to & fro) to the forest department godown will have to be borne by the respective user agency/industry. This complete exercise will be carried out within 60 days of issuance of tree felling order from the divisional forest officer.
7.	If the number of trees to be felled off is less than 200 then, as a part of compensatory afforestation, user agency will have to plant 1000 new trees. The Concerned divisional forest officer will prepare & submit the afforestation plan for the same.
8.	In certain emergency situation wherein seeking prior approval for tree felling is not possible the user agency will carry out the tree felling activity and will inform the divisional forest officer subsequently about the same.
9.	In such situations the divisional forest officer will ensure the validation of the same within 7 days of receipt of tree felling information from the user agency. He will also ensure the deputation of personnel from the forest department for logging & storage of felled off trees in the respective godown of forest department.

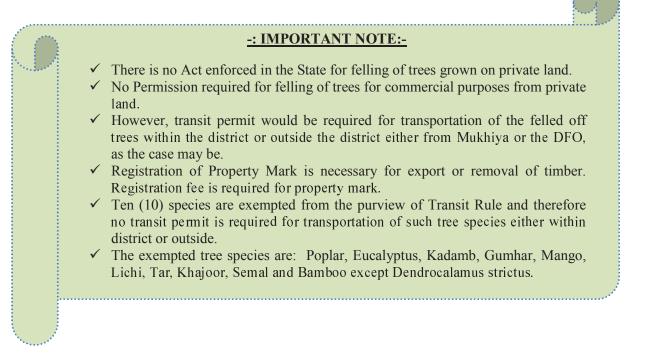
# C. Obtaining NOC For Felling/Transit Of Trees On Private Land Prior To Commencement Of Construction Activities.

C.1. Introduction			
Name of Service	Obtaining NOC For Felling/Transit Of Trees On Private Land Prior To Commencement Of Construction Activities		
Authority/Department			
Regulatory Framework	✓ Bihar Kashth & other Forest Produce Transit Regulations Rules, 1973.		
Application Method	Manual.		
Application Processing Fee (if any) and Mode of Payment	<ul> <li>Property ownership/ Lease Documents.</li> <li>2. Application form.</li> <li>6. Latest jamabandi of land record issued by the Tehsildar.</li> <li>7. "No Objection Certificate" from adjoining property owner.</li> <li>Nil.</li> </ul>		
Key Approving Authority	Mukhiya/DFO Yes.		
Prescribed Timeline for service delivery (from date of application)	No time limit prescribed.		

## **C.1. Introduction**

### C.2. Application and approval procedure

#	Process
1.	
2.	Enclosed all the relevant documents as mentioned above along with the application.
3.	



# **D.** Inspection by Appropriate Authority for felling trees (prior to commencement of construction activities)

Name of Service	Inspection by Appropriate Authority for felling trees (prior to commencement of construction activities)		
Regulatory Framework	<ul> <li>Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (For Proposals seeking NoC- Tree felling on Forest Land.)</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Bihar Kashth &amp; other Forest Produce Transit Regulations Rules, 1973 (For Proposals seeking NoC- Tree felling on Government Land.)</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Tree Felling and Transit Regulations in the State of Bihar (For Proposals seeking Transit permits for Trees grown &amp; fell down on Private Land.)</li> </ul>		
Competent Authority for	Concerned DFO or Conservator of Forest.		
conducting the site inspection			

#### **D.1.Introduction**

### **D.2.Inspection Procedure**

#	Process
I.	For Proposals seeking NoC- Tree felling on Forest Land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2.	If the area is very important from the forestry angle, the territorial Conservator should himself inspect the area and give complete information relating to the forest and aspects of wildlife.
4.	<ul> <li>The Inspecting Officer will record if any violation is observed like tree felling, land breaking etc., in that area by the user agency. He may also ask for the below documents:</li> <li>✓ Location map of the Proposed Site, duly signed by both U/A and DFO.</li> <li>✓ Index Map in Survey of India topo sheet (1:50,000) or (1:25,000) duly signed by both UA and DFO concerned.</li> <li>✓ Lay out Plan.</li> </ul>
	• Lay out Plan.

Guidebook on application	& inspection procedure j	for obtaining NOC/Transit	Permit for Tree felling/transportation
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	along with his recommendations & photographs of inspected sites, highlighting the aspects
6.	If approved NOC for tree felling will be granted to the User Agency.
1.	The DFO or any other official of forest department nominated by him will visit the proposed area to carry-out the inspection work.
3.	The Inspecting Officer will record if any violation is observed like tree felling, land breaking etc., in that area by the user agency.
5.	If approved, NOC for tree felling will be granted to the User Agency/industry.
1.	Inspection will be carried out either by Mukhiya or the DFO depending upon the geographical limitations.
3.	<ul> <li>Mukhiya or the DFO, as the case may be, will ask for the following documents for verification:</li> <li>Property ownership/ Lease Documents.</li> <li>Application form.</li> <li>Affidavit.</li> <li>Plan of the property showing the khesra number.</li> <li>Boundary list (duly signed by the applicant).</li> <li>Latest jamabandi of land record issued by the Tehsildar.</li> <li>"No Objection Certificate" from adjoining property owner.</li> </ul>
5.	Subsequently, transit permit will get issued to the User agency/Industry.

<u>-: IMPORTANT NOTE:-</u>
 The scientific names of important timber species should be given while describing composition of the forest crop.
 In respect of proposals involving diversion of forest land above 40 hectares, site inspection shall also be carried out by Regional Office of Ministry of Environment & Forest.
 State Government will send copy of all such proposals to concerned Regional Office to facilitate timely inspection of such proposals.

Guidebook on application & inspection procedure for obtaining NOC/Transit Permit for Tree felling/transportation

**Annexure-Forms & Formats** 

#### (See Rule 6) FORM – 'A' Form for seeking prior approval under section 2 of the proposals by the State Governments and other authorities PART-I (to be filled up by user agency)

1. Project details:

- (i) Short narrative of the proposal and project/scheme for which the forest land is required.
- (ii) Map showing the required forest land, boundary of adjoining forest on a 1:50,000 scale map.
- (iii) Cost of the project:
- (iv) Justification for locating the project in forest area.
- $(v)\ Cost-benefit\ analysis\ (to\ be\ enclosed).$
- (vi) Employment likely to be generated.
- 2. Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required:
- 3. Details of displacement of people due to the project, if any:
  - i. Number of families.
  - ii. Number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe families
  - iii. Rehabilitation plan. (to be enclosed)
- 4. Whether clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 required? (Yes/No).
- 5. Undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and/or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost for protection and regeneration of Safety Zone, etc. as per the scheme prepared by the State Government (undertaking to be enclosed).
- 6. Details of Certificates/documents enclosed as required under the instructions.

Signature (Name in Block letters) Designation Address (of User Agency)

Date:	
Place:-	

State serial No. of proposal\_\_\_\_\_ (To be filled up by the Nodal Officer with date of receipt)

#### **INSTRUCTIONS (for Part-I):-**

- The project authorities may annex a copy of the approved project/plan in addition to filling Col. 1

   (i) e.g. IBM approved mining plan for major minerals/CMPDI plan with subsidence analysis reports, etc.
- 2. Map has to be in original duly authenticated jointly by project authorities and concerned DCF Col. 1 (ii).
- 3. Complete details of alternative alignments examined especially in case of project like roads, transmission lines, railway lines, canals, etc. to be shown on map with details of area of forest land involved in each alternative to be given Col. 1 (iii).
- 4. For proposals relating to mining, certificate from competent authority like District Mining Officer about non-availability of the same mineral in surrounding/nearby non-forest areas.
- 5. In case the same company/individual has taken forest land for similar project in the State, a brief detail of all such approvals/leases be given as an enclosure along with current status of the projects.

The latest clarifications issued by the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may be kept in mind. In case such information do not fit in the given columns, the same shall be annexed separately.

#### **PART-II**

#### (To be filled by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests)

State serial No. of proposal

- 7. Location of the project/Scheme:
  - i. State/Union Territory
  - ii. District.
  - iii. Forest Division
  - iv. Area of forest land proposed for diversion (in ha.)
  - v. Legal status of forest
  - vi. Density of vegetation.
  - vii. Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class-wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed. In case of irrigation / hydel projects enumeration at FRL, FRL-2 meter & FRL-4 meter also to be enclosed.)
  - viii. Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion.
  - ix. Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.
  - x. Whether forms part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed).
  - xi. Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area- if so details thereof.
  - xii. Whether any protected archaeological/heritage site/defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent authority, if required.
- 8. Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.
- 9. Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.
- 10. Details of compensatory afforestation scheme:
  - i. Details of non forest area/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patch.
  - ii. Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.
  - iii. Detailed compensatory afforestation scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.
  - iv. Total financial outlay for compensatory afforestation scheme.
  - v. Certificates from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory afforestation and from management point of view. (To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests).

11. Site inspection report of the DCF (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in col. 7 (xi, xii), 8 and 9 above.

12. Division/District profile:

i. Geographical area of the district.

ii. Forest area of the district.

- iii. Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases.
- iv. Total compensatory afforestation stipulated in the district/division since 1980 on (a) forest land including penal compensatory afforestation,

(b) non-forest land.

v. Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ on

- (a) forest land
- (b) non-forest land.

13. Specific recommendations of the DCF for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with reasons.

Signature Name

Official Seal

Date:-\_\_\_\_

#### PART-III

#### (To be filled by the concerned Conservator of Forests)

- 14. Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests (Yes/No). If yes, the date of inspection & observations made in form of inspection note to be enclosed.
- 15. Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-B and the recommendations of Deputy Conservator of Forests.
- 16. Specific recommendation of concerned Conservator of Forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.

Signature Name Official Seal

Date:-\_\_\_\_

#### PART-IV

# (To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest department)

17. Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of <u>otherwise of the proposal with remarks.</u>

(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon).

Signature Name & Designation (Official Seal)

Date:-\_\_\_\_

#### PART-V

#### (To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorised officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

#### 18. Recommendation of the State Government:

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part-C or Part-D above should be specifically commented upon)

Signature

Name & Designation

(Official Seal)

Date:-

Place:-

#### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:-**

- 1. On receipt of proposal, Nodal Officer shall issue a receipt to the user agency indicating therein the name of the proposal, user agency, area in hectare, serial number and date of receipt.
- 2. If the space provided above is not sufficient to specify any information, please attach separate details/documents.
- 3. While forwarding the proposal to the Central Government, complete details on all aspects of the case as per Form prescribed above read with the clarifications issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi should be given. Incomplete or deficient proposals shall not be considered and shall be returned to the State Government in original.
- 4. The State Government shall submit the proposal to the Central Government within stipulated time limits. In case of delay while forwarding, the reasons for the same to be given in the forwarding/covering letter.

#### FORM - 'B'

#### (See Rule 6)

#### Form for seeking prior approval under section 2 of the proposals by the State Governments and other authorities in respect of renewal of leases, which have been earlier granted clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

#### PART-I

#### (to be filled up by user agency)

1. Letter No. & date vide which clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 accorded by the Central Government (copy to be enclosed):

2. Project details:

- (i) Short narrative of the proposal and project/scheme for which the forest land is required.
- (ii) Map showing the required forest land, boundary of adjoining forest on a 1:50,000 scale map.
- (iii) Cost of the project:
- 3. Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required (already broken & to be broken):
- 4. Details of Certificates/documents enclosed as required under the instructions.

Signature

(Name in Block letters)

Designation

Address (of User Agency)

Date:-\_\_\_\_

Place:-\_\_\_\_

State serial No. of proposal\_\_\_\_\_

(To be filled up by the Nodal Officer with date of receipt)

#### PART-II

#### (To be filled by the concerned Deputy Conservator of Forests)

State serial No. of proposal\_\_\_\_\_

- 5. Location of the project/Scheme:
  - i. State/Union Territory
  - ii. District.
  - iii. Forest Division
  - iv. Area of forest land proposed for diversion (in ha.)
  - v. Legal status of forest
  - vi. Density of vegetation.
  - vii. Species-wise (scientific names) and diameter class-wise enumeration of trees in unbroken area.
  - viii. Whether forms part of National Park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, etc. (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed).

6. Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.

7. Site inspection report of the DCF (to be enclosed) in respect to status of compliance of conditions stipulated during earlier approval.

- 8. Division/District profile:
  - i. Geographical area of the district.
  - ii. Forest area of the district.
  - iii. Total forest area diverted since 1980 with number of cases.
  - iv. Total compensatory afforestation stipulated in the district/division since 1980 on (a) forest land including penal compensatory afforestation, (b) non-forest land.
  - v. Progress of compensatory afforestation as on (date) \_\_\_\_\_ on

(a) forest land

(b) non-forest land.

9. Specific recommendations of the DCF for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with reasons.

- Signature Name
- Official Seal

#### PART-III

#### (To be filled by the concerned Conservator of Forests)

10. Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests (Yes/No). If yes, the date of inspection & observations made in form of inspection note to be enclosed.

11. Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-B and the recommendations of Deputy Conservator of Forests.

12. Specific recommendation of concerned Conservator of Forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.

Signature Name Official Seal

Date:-\_\_\_\_\_ Place:-

#### PART-IV

# (To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest department)

13. Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of otherwise of the proposal with remarks.

(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon).

Signature Name & Designation (Official Seal)

Date:-\_\_\_\_

#### PART-V

#### (To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorised officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

14. Recommendation of the State Government:

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part-C or Part-D above should be specifically commented upon)

Signature

Name & Designation

(Official Seal)

Date:-

Place:-

#### **INSTRUCTIONS (for Part-I)**:-

- The project authorities may annex a copy of the approved project/plan in addition to filling Col. 2

   (i) e.g. IBM approved mining plan for major minerals/CMPDI plan with subsidence analysis reports, etc.
- 2. Map has to be in original duly authenticated jointly by project authorities and concerned DCF Col. 2 (ii).
- 3. In case the same company/individual has taken forest land for similar project in the State, a brief detail of all such approvals/leases be given as an enclosure along with current status of the projects.
- 4. Item-wise requirement (Col. 3) should be separately shown for broken up and fresh areas.
- 5. The latest clarifications issued by the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may be kept in mind. In case such information do not fit in the given columns, the same shall be annexed separately.

#### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:-**

- 1. On receipt of proposal, Nodal Officer shall issue a receipt to the user agency indicating therein the name of the proposal, user agency, area in hectare, serial number and date of receipt.
- 2. If the space provided above is not sufficient to specify any information, please attach separate details/documents.
- 3. While forwarding the proposal to the Central Government, complete details on all aspects of the case as per Form prescribed above read with the clarifications issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi should be given. Incomplete or deficient proposals shall not be considered and shall be returned to the State Government in original.
- 4. The State Government shall submit the proposal to the Central Government within stipulated time limits. In case of delay while forwarding, the reasons for the same to be given in the forwarding/covering letter.

(File No. 5-5/98-FC) Sd/-(DR. V.K. BAHUGUNA)

Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation)

**Note:-** The principal rules were published vide G.S.R. No. 719 dated the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1981 in part II, Section 3, sub-section (i) of the Gazette of India and subsequently amended vide:

1. G.S.R. 14, dated the 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1987

2. G.S.R. 640(E), dated the 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1989

3. G.S.R. 563 (E), dated the 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1992.