

F.No.J-11013/55/2017-IA-II (I)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(IA Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 3

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

**Office Memorandum**

**Sub: Increase in number of working days for distilleries - Amendment in Environmental Clearance - reg.**

The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 mandates the requirement of prior environmental clearance to the projects/activities listed in the schedule to the said Notification, for setting up, expansion and/or modernization by the concerned regulatory authority depending upon their categorization (A/B). These projects/activities include distilleries (molasses and non-molasses based) under item 5(g) and thus requiring prior environmental clearance from the Ministry or the SEIAAs in different States/UTs.

2. Earlier, the Ministry has issued environmental clearances to molasses based distilleries utilizing their concentrated spent wash for bio-composting, with the condition that the distilleries shall not operate during rainy season and thus the number of working/operating days shall not exceed 270. Such a stipulation was based on the technology/facilities available at that stage, and the guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in this regard.

3. Subsequent to formulation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by CPCB for bio-composting operations, providing specifications for covered bio-composting yard to enable distilleries to operate even during the rainy season also i.e. throughout the year, the Ministry has issued OM dated 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, stipulating no requirement for amendment in the existing environmental clearances subject to compliance of the said SOP.

4. Further, in case of distilleries adopting incineration boilers or a combination of bio-composting and the incineration, for the end treatment of spent wash to achieve Zero Liquid Discharge, CPCB has given its observations on the requirement of SOP/guidelines.

5. In view of the above, following clarifications/instructions are issued for compliance with immediate effect:-

(a) In case of projects/distilleries involving installation of incineration boilers for spent wash treatment and thus to achieve zero liquid discharge, there shall be no requirement for amendment in the existing EC to increase number of working days or otherwise,

subject to meeting the prescribed emission standards for boilers, minimum solid content in the slop, ZLD condition and installation/connectivity of online continuous emissions monitoring systems (OCEMS). The same may be ensured by the concerned SPCBs/PCCs before issuing Consent to Establish/Operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(b) In case of projects/distilleries involving installation of incineration boilers and/or having covered bio-composting operations for the end treatment of spent wash to achieve zero liquid discharge, there shall be no requirement for amendment in the existing EC to increase number of working days, subject to compliance of the conditions mentioned in (a) above and Standard Operating Procedure formulated by CPCB for bio-composting operations, and the same is ensured by the concerned SPCBs/PCCs before issuing Consent to Establish/Operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(c) Distilleries complying with the norms/requirements as per (a) or (b) above, may be permitted to operate throughout the year without any change in the production capacity as per the environmental clearances issued to such projects.

6. This issues in supersession of the earlier OM dated 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 with approval of the competent authority.

  
(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)  
Scientist F

To

1. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2. Chairman/Members of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
4. All the Officers of I.A. Division
5. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs

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