

**Guidelines for Fee Structure under Recognition of Prior Learning mode for
Environmental Clearance (EC), Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), Island
Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) and Island Protection Zone (IPZ)
Clearance-related Audits**

**(Issued under rule 14 read with rule 18 of the Environment Audit Rules,
2025)**

1. Background

In accordance with rule 14 read with rule 18 of the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), these Guidelines establish the audit fee structure and payment process for environment audits, as well as the certification and registration fees applicable to individuals, firms, and corporate bodies. These Guidelines also outline the framework for collecting, managing, and disbursing certification, registration, and audit fees in a transparent, accountable, and efficient manner. They should be read together with the Guidelines for Certification and Registration of Environment Auditors through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the Guidelines on Code of Conduct for Certified Environment Auditors and Registered Environment Auditors.

The certification and registration fee provided in Schedule I applies to certification and registration under the RPL mode. The audit cost structure provided in Schedule II applies to every environment audit of Category I undertaken by a Registered Environment Auditor, irrespective of the mode through which the auditor was certified.

These Guidelines shall come into force on the date of their issue.

2. Applicability of the fees

- i. The certification and registration fees outlined in these Guidelines shall be payable by individual applicants and by firms or a body corporate.
- ii. The audit cost shall be payable by the Auditee and shall include the professional audit fee, institutional charges, and such other charges as outlined in the guidelines, along with any payments towards applicable taxes, cess, etc.
- iii. No payment of any kind shall be made by the Auditee directly to the Registered Environment Auditor, or by the Registered Environment Auditor to the Auditee, in respect of an environment audit. The entire audit cost shall be routed through EADA in accordance with paragraph 7. Any direct payment shall be treated as professional misconduct under the Code of Conduct Guidelines.

3. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires—

- a. "Act" means the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- b. "Applicant" means any individual or entity applying for certification or registration under these Guidelines;

- c. "Audit Cost Calculator" means the EADA Audit Cost Calculator referred to in paragraph 5(ii);
- d. "Auditee" means the project proponent or the owner, operator or occupier of the project, activity or process that is the subject matter of an environment audit;
- e. The expression "Auditor" means an Individual Registered Environment Auditor (REA) or a Firm or Body Corporate registered as an REA;
- f. "Certification and Registration Guidelines" means the Guidelines for Certification and Registration of Environment Auditors through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) issued under rules 7 and 8 of the Rules;
- g. "CEA" means a Certified Environment Auditor certified under the Certification and Registration Guidelines;
- h. "CRZ Clearance" means a clearance granted under the applicable Coastal Regulation Zone Notifications;
- i. "ICRZ Clearance" means a clearance granted under the applicable Island Coastal Regulation Zone Notifications;
- j. "IPZ Clearance" means a clearance granted under the applicable Island Protection Zone Notifications;
- k. "EADA" means the Environment Audit Designated Agency notified under the Environment Audit Rules, 2025;
- l. "EC" means Environmental Clearance granted under the EIA Notification, 2006 and amendments thereto;
- m. "REA" means a Registered Environment Auditor registered under the Certification and Registration Guidelines;
- n. "Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)" means the Recognition of Prior Learning Mode provided under clause (i) of rule 7 of the Environment Audit Rules, 2025;
- o. "Rules" means the Environment Audit Rules, 2025;
- p. "Steering Committee" means the steering committee constituted under rule 15 of the Rules.

4. Certification and Registration Fee for RPL

The Certification and Registration Fee shall be as specified in **Schedule-I**.

Provided that, first fifty (50) applications made within twelve months from the date of issue of these Guidelines by Central Government academic and research institutions namely Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs); National Institutes of Technology (NITs); Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs); Indian Institute of Science (IISc); Central Universities; institutions of national importance established under any law for the time being in force, and research laboratories or institutes under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research or any Department of the Central Government shall be exempted from payment of one time registration fee and fee for certification.

5. Audit cost structure

- i. The audit cost structure shall be as specified in Schedule-II. Provided that, the audit cost may be revised for an individual category of cases or in general, with the approval of the Steering Committee.

- ii. The audit cost shall be determined through the EADA Audit Cost Calculator created by EADA and made available on the EADA portal.
- iii. Provided that, special cases/ category of cases requiring special provisions of audit cost may be presented by the EADA with justification for prior approval of the Steering Committee.

6. Annual audit of accounts

- i. EADA shall maintain separate account heads for (a) Certification and Registration Fees received from auditors; and (b) Audit Fees received from project proponents.
- ii. EADA shall maintain proper accounts, prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts for each financial year, and submit the same, duly audited by an independent auditor, together with its Annual Report to the Central Government, in terms of clause (xi) of rule 5 of the Rules, and shall publish the audited Annual Statement of Accounts on the EADA portal.

7. Audit Cost Collection and Disbursement Procedure

- i. Upon request of an environment audit made by the Project Proponent (PP)/Auditee or the Regulatory Authority, as the case may be, the Auditee shall remit the audit cost, as determined through the EADA Audit Cost Calculator to the EADA, within thirty days of the demand raised by EADA.
- ii. Where the audit has been directed by a Regulatory Authority or the Central Government and the Auditee fails to remit the audit cost within the period specified in clause (i), EADA shall report the failure to the authority which directed the audit for such action as may be appropriate under the applicable law.
- iii. Upon receipt of the audit cost, the EADA shall allocate the audit assignment to individual REA or a REA Firm, as applicable, through the random allocation mechanism provided in rule 13 of the Rules and subject to rule 12 thereof. The details of the allocated REA/REA Firm shall be shared with the PP simultaneously.
- iv. The allocated REA/REA Firm shall communicate the audit plan to the PP/Auditee and the same shall be informed to the EADA simultaneously.
- v. Upon completion of the audit, the REA Firm / individual REA shall submit the Environment Audit Report (EAR) along with its claim for the admissible audit fee and associated expenses to EADA through the portal.
- vi. Upon satisfactory completion of the completeness review of the EAR, EADA shall, based on the claim submitted by the allocated individual REA or REA Firm, disburse the admissible audit cost to the designated bank account of the REA Firm/REA, after making such statutory deductions, if any, as may be applicable under law, preferably within a period of thirty days.
- vii. Where the EAR is found to be incomplete or deficient, EADA shall communicate the deficiency to the REA or REA Firm, which shall make it good within fifteen days. EADA may withhold, in whole or in part, the audit cost payable in respect

of an audit found to be deficient, false or not conducted in accordance with the prescribed procedure, after affording an opportunity of being heard, and may recover any amount already disbursed.

- viii. Any dispute regarding the admissibility of a claim shall be decided by EADA by a reasoned order.
- ix. All applicable requirements of Tax Laws regarding invoicing etc., shall be carried out by the concerned authorized entities as per provisions contained therein. The EADA may issue its own guidelines in this regard for procedural clarity.

Schedule -I

Table 1: Certification & Registration fee under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

S. No.	Particulars	Category I - EC, CRZ, ICRZ & IPZ- related Audits (₹)
1.	Certification and/or Registration Fee* for individuals (payable at the time of submission of the application)	₹ 25,000
2.	Registration Fee* for Firm /Body Corporate (payable at the time of submission of the application)	₹ 25,000

* The above fees are exclusive of applicable taxes.

Note:

The renewal fee for certification, registration, annual training fees and any other applicable fee shall be prescribed by the Central Government separately, on the recommendation of EADA and of the Steering Committee, in terms of rule 14 of the Rules. The fee specified in this Schedule shall be paid through the EADA Portal.

Schedule II

Table 2: Audit cost structure for Category I EC, CRZ, ICRZ and IPZ related Audits

Category	Professional Audit Fee (₹/man-day)	Institutional Charges (payable to EADA) @ 6.25% of the professional audit fee	Accommodation /night/person	Daily Allowance per person	Travelling expense
REA	₹ 12,000	₹ 750	Up to ₹ 5,625	Up to ₹ 1,250	Up to ₹5,000 per person, for a return journey, (for audits up to 250 km); Beyond 250 km, cost as per EADA Audit Cost Calculator
Team Member*	₹ 8,000	₹ 500	Up to ₹ 2,250	Up to ₹ 1,125	Same as above

Note I: Above fee is exclusive of applicable taxes.

Note II: Expenses towards environment monitoring / analysis, as may be required for the audit, shall be payable in accordance with the rates prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) or the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC), as applicable.

***Note III:** Eligibility for Team member: In case of an REA firm/ body corporate which is a technical or research or academic institution, it may take assistance of team member(s) who may be a postgraduate research scholar or research fellow associated with the institution. The number of team members should not exceed more than half of the audit team strength prescribed by EADA for the relevant category of audit.

Note IV: The rates of accommodation and daily allowance specified above are the maximum ceilings, are payable only against actual expenditure incurred. No accommodation allowance shall be payable where the project site is located within the local limits of the headquarters of the REA or team member.

Note V: The institutional charge of 6.25% shall be computed on the professional audit fee alone and not on accommodation, daily allowance, travelling expense or monitoring and analysis charges.

Note VI: The total audit cost shall be computed as the product of the professional audit fee and the man-days prescribed by EADA for the category of audit, plus institutional charges, accommodation, daily allowance, travelling expense and monitoring and analysis charges, and shall be displayed to the Auditee by the Audit Cost Calculator before remittance.