

No. 19-2/2016-SU (NEC)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(SU Division)

Vayu Wing, 6th floor,
Indira Paryavatan Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 18th November, 2016

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Movement of timber from North Eastern Region - order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12.04.2016 - Issue of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) - reg.

I am directed to inform that Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 12.04.2016 dissolved the High Powered Committee (HPC) and Special Investigation Team (SIT) and directed the government of India to identify the legal frame work under which movement is permissible and take steps to ensure that the movement of surplus timber from North Eastern Region is carried out only in accordance with the regulatory control so prescribed. The Hon'ble Supreme Court also directed that in case a suitable statutory regulation has not so far been prescribed, the Government of India may take steps to do the needful. Pending framing of appropriate rules on the subject, the movement of surplus timber from North-Eastern Region to the rest of the country, in place of the SIT earlier established by this court, be permissible only under the orders of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The MoEF is free to nominate an appropriate officer for exercise of the powers earlier exercised by the SIT.

Accordingly, the Ministry vide its order No. 19-2/2016-SU (NEC) dated 8th September, 2016 nominated that the work related to erstwhile SIT will be dealt by Survey and Utilization (SU) Division of the Ministry and IGF (EAP) will be Nodal Officer for the above work. Further, the Ministry has prepared a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for movement of timber from North-Eastern Region to other parts of the country based on the guidelines issued by erstwhile SIT, NE Cell of the Ministry, Regional Office, Shillong and guidelines issued by Railway Board. A copy of the SOP is enclosed herewith for your kind information and necessary action.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority.

Encl. As Above


(Anand Krishna)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests
Telefax: 011-24695323

For

- (i) The Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Secretariat, Itanagar-791111,
- (ii) The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Block-C, 3rd Floor, Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.
- (iii) The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Room No. 171, South Block, Secretariat, Imphal-795001.

- (iv) The Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Main Secretariat Building, Shillong-793001
- (v) The Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram, Civil Secretariat, Block-C, Aizwal-796001.
- (vi) The Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland, Secretariat, Kohima-797001.
- (vii) The Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura, Civil Secretariat, Agartala-799001.
- (viii) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Government of Assam, P.O. , Rehabari, Guwahati-781001.
- (ix) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Zero Point Pinali, Itanagar-791111.
- (x) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Government of Manipur, Sanjenthong, Imphal-795001.
- (xi) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Government of Meghalaya, Sylvan House, lower Inchemiere, Shillong-793001.
- (xii) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Government of Mizoram, Aizwal-796001.
- (xiii) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Government of Nagaland, Kohima-797001.
- (xiv) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Forests, Government of Tripura, Aranya Bhawan, Gorkhin Basti, P.O. Kungaban, Agartala, Tripura-799006.
- (xv) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), North Eastern Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Law-U-Sib, Lumbatigen, Near MTC workshop, Shillong-793021.
- (xvi) The Chairman, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
- (xvii) The Executive Director, Traffic (T), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (xviii) The Director Commercial (R), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (xix) The General Manager, Northeast Frontier Railways, District, Kamrup PO: Maligaon, Assam, 781011.

Copy for information to:-

- (i) PPS to Secretary (E,F&CC)
- (ii) PPS to DGF&SS
- (iii) PPS to ADG(FC)
- (iv) PPS to IGF(EAP)


(Anand Krishna)

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Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Movement of Timber from NE Region to the rest of the Country in compliance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12th April, 2016.

- (1) IGF(EAP) will be the nodal officer for all the work related to erstwhile SIT.
- (2) All the applications for allotment of wagons for movement of timber from North Eastern Region to the rest of the country will be submitted to the Ministry (SU Division) with copy marked to Regional Office, Shillong.
- (3) **Conditions for loading of timber in Railway wagon.**

(i) Timber and timber products shall be transported only in covered wagons. On Broad Gauge only BCX wagons will be used. Indents will be accepted by the station staff only for these nominated types of wagons.

(ii). The minimum quantity of timber products (in term of cubic meters) that are required to be loaded by the consignor would be as under;

BCX (Broad Gauge)-For timber other than Sal= 54 Cubic Metres;

For Sal = 48 Cubic Metres

BC (Metre Gauge)-For timber other than Sal= 36 Cubic Metres

For Sal= 28 Cubic Metres

(iii) Transportation of timber in quantity less than the stipulated minimum quantities indicated above shall not be allowed by the Railways. In case a consignor loads quantity less than the stipulated minimum, which should be evident from the certificate issued by the forest officer after loading of the wagon, no Railway receipt shall be issued by Goods Clerk for such wagons. The Station Manager will ensure that such loaded wagons are not dispatched. The consignor and the Divisional Forest Officer shall be advised of such less loading. The consignor shall be fully responsible for detention to such wagons.

(iv) Despite the specified volume of timber/timber products being loaded in the specified types of wagons, the levy of freight charges shall be governed by the terms and conditions of Indian Railway Conference Association (IRCA), Goods Tariff.

- (4) **Permissible Station for loading of timber through Railway from North Eastern parts of country to other parts.**

S. No.	Name of the approved loading station	Location from which timber will be allowed to be loaded
1	Dinapur	Only from Nagaland
2	Dharmnagar	Only from Tripura
3	Bharibai	Only from Mizoram
4	New Bongaion	Only from Assam & Meghalaya
5	Guwahati	Only from Assam & Meghalaya
6	Tinsukia	Only from Assam & Arunachal Pradesh
7	Amoni	Arunachal Pradesh

(5) Guidelines on movement of round timber from Bairabi Railway Station:

- (i) Minimum of 35 cum (sawn timber) and 30 cubic meter (log form) round timber is loaded in each broad gauge BDN type wagon from Bairabi Railway Station.
- (ii) Those timber, which has been harvested in Mizoram in conformity with the Supreme Court orders particularly order dated 12.12.1996 and 15.1.1998 in writ Petition © No. 202/95, is allowed to be loaded only. For this, before loading the designated Forest officer would issue certificate.
- (iii) No round timber brought to Mizoram from outside the state is eligible for loading.
- (iv) Timber owned/belonging to timber contractors/firms/persons, who are/were found to be involved in movement of timber in violation of guidelines issued for movement of timber through Railways from north-Eastern States from time to time, is not eligible for loading i.e. such contractors/firms/persons should be blacklisted for the purpose of movement of timber through Railways. The registration done in respect of such persons if any, would be cancelled without any notice and no forwarding note for registration of wagons either be forward by authorized forest officials or accepted by the Railways.
- (v) - Presently, no loading of round timber shall be allowed from any loading points other than Bairabi Railway Station subject to stipulations mentioned above.
- (vi) Irrespective of the above, Railway shall be entitled to charge freight as per rules/ procedures.

(6) Guidelines for movement of timber in the other types of wagons or with less than stipulated minimum quantity.

- (i) In cases involving less loading, consignor is to be held fully responsible for detention of such wagons. The Railways may kindly consider making it more explicit to ensure that whenever any loading is done in violation of guidelines, including less loading, timber not supported with proper transit passes & other documents etc, the consignor is fully responsible for payment of wharfage, demurrage, physical verification charges or any other expenditure incurred for detention and/or verification of such timber at the loading points in transit.

(7) Registration of timber transportation and Indent for Railway Wagons.

- (i) All persons/firms desiring transportation of timber through railways will be required to register with the office of the Divisional Forest Officer in whose jurisdiction the timber is to be loaded.
- (ii) Other guidelines related to registration of timber transportation and indent for railway wagon will remain same as issued by Regional Office, Shillong of the Ministry vide letter No. 2-6-1/RO NE/98 dated 20.06.2000, Ministry letter No. 8-15(NEC)/2000 dated 25th May, 2000, Ministry of Railway vide letter No. 97/TCI dated 31.05.2000 and Ministry letter No. 8-180/NEC/2001 dated 27.09.2001.

- (8) **Maintenance of records by the wood based units:-** Each of the wood based unit shall maintain records as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No. 8-180/NEC/2001 dated 27.09.2001.
- (9) **Verification of records, survey and physical verification:-** The procedure for verification of record, survey and physical verification will be as per guidelines issued by Ministry vide letter No. 8-180/NEC/2001 dated 27.09.2001.
- (10) **Requirement of Transit passes, excisable invoice, RG-12 form:-** The procedure will be same as per the guidelines issued by Ministry vide letter No. 8-180/NEC/2001 dated 27.09.2001.
- (11) **Issue of lieu transit passes:-** The procedure will be same as per the guidelines issued by Ministry vide letter No. 8-180/NEC/2001 dated 27.09.2001.
- (12) **Guidelines to regulate transportation of molding beats/frames from North-Eastern states.**
- (i) Transportation of molding beats/frames by railways shall be permitted only from approved loading stations. No transportation shall be permitted from other railway stations.
 - (ii) The transportation by Railways shall be allowed from the approved loading station only after the indent for the quantity proposed to be transported is forwarded by the local DFO. Detailed guidelines for the procedure to be followed by the DFO for issue of indent may be issued by the concerned PCEF. Such indent necessarily have to be accompanied with transit pass(s) and details of the HPC cleared saw mill located inside notified industrial estate from which the sawn timber has been obtained.
 - (iii) No transportation of molding beats/frames shall be permitted outside North East by road. Such transportation within North-East shall be permitted only if a valid transit pass has been issued after verifying the legality of the timber and provided that the sawn timber has been procured from an HPC cleared saw mill located within an notified industrial estate.
- (13) **Use of water marked transit passes for movement of timber from North Eastern Region to other parts of the country.**
- (i) The movement of timber outside North Eastern States shall be permitted only using water marked transit passes.
 - (ii) The water marked transit passes will be provided by Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shillong on the request of concerned States Forest Department. The water marked transit passes will be printed by Regional Office Shillong through Hindustan Paper Corporation which is a Government of India undertaking.
 - (iii) No movement of timber including sawn timber and veneer outside North Eastern States shall be allowed other than on the transit passes endorsed as above.

(iv) Any movement done without endorsed transit pass shall be treated as unauthorized movement/illegal movement.

(v) The details of transit passes used for transportation shall be sent by the concerned DFO every month to the PCCF for reconciliation and to ensure that the transportation is being done only by using transit passes endorsed by the PCCF or his authorized nominee.

(vi) The PCCF shall personally ensure that no movement of timber outside North East is allowed without use of transit passes endorsed by him or his authorized nominee.

F. No. 19-4/2016-SU (NEC)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(SU Division)

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5th Floor, Jal Wing,
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Dated: 3rd March, 2017

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Movement of Timber from North Eastern Region- order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12.04.2016- issue of Standard Operating Procedure (SoP)-regd.

As informed by the North Frontier Railway vide their letter No.C30/RG/1/Pt XIII dated 29.12.2016 and 10.01.2017, that BCX wagons are no more in service in North Eastern Region. Therefore, in view of this, following amendment have been made in the Standard Operating Procedure issued by this Ministry vide O.M.No.19-2/2016-SU (NEC) dated 18th /21st November, 2017

1. The word BCX wagon is replaced with BCN Wagon (Permissible Carrying capacity 61 MT)
2. The word BC (Meter Gauge) is deleted
3. The word BDN Wagon is replaced with BCN Wagon (Permissible Carrying Capacity 61 MT)

(Dr. Anil Kumar)

Additional Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation)

Telephone: 24695279

To

- (i) The Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Secretariat, Itanagar-791111
- (ii) The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Block-C, 3rd Floor, Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.
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