



# **A Guide to Environmental Clearance Procedure**



**Department of Environment  
Ministry of Environment and Forests**

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# Environmental Clearance Procedure

## Introduction

Industrialization is an essential prerequisite for rapid and sustained economic development and social progress. But it fetches environmental degradation like air, water and soil pollution. So, environmental management is necessary to decrease such environmental pollution and degradation. The Government of Bangladesh provides importance to protect environment and natural resources. The Government has included an article for environmental protection and pursuit of sustainable development. Article 18A of the constitution states *“The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests and wild life for the present and future citizens.”*

## **Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (Amended 2010):**

Environment Conservation Act 1995 is currently the main act governing environmental protection in Bangladesh, which replaced the earlier environment pollution control ordinance of 1992 and provides the legal basis for Environment Conservation Rules, 1997 (ECR'97). The main objectives of ECA'95 are: conservation of the natural environment and improvement of environmental standards, and control and mitigation of environmental pollution. According to Article-12 of Environment Conservation Act 1995, *“No industrial unit or project shall be established or undertaken without obtaining, in the manner prescribed by rules, an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Director General”*

## **Environment Conservation Rules, 1997 (Amended 2002):**

Environmental Conservation Rules, 1997 consists of a set of the relevant rules to implement the Environment Conservation Act, 1995 which specify: Categorized list (Green, Orange-A, Orange-B and Red) of the projects; Procedure to take environmental clearance; Ambient standards in relation to water pollution, air pollution and noise, as well as permitted discharge/emission levels of water and air pollutants and noise by projects Environmental Categories. Procedure for issuing Environmental Clearance Certificate has been stated in the Rule-7 of the Environmental Conservation Rules, 1997. The validity period is also stated in the Rule-8.

## **Environmental Clearance Procedure:**

It is mandatory to obtain Environmental Clearance for each and every type of industry and project as per Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 (Amended 2010). For the purpose of issuance of Environmental Clearance Certificate, the industrial units and projects shall, in consideration of their site and impact on the environment, be classified into the following four categories (see Annexure-I):

- Green
- Orange-A
- Orange-B
- Red

Industries and projects included in the various categories as specified in rule 7(2) of ECR, 1997 have been described in Schedule-1 (Environment Conservation Rules, 1997). Environmental Clearance for Green category industries and projects is provided through comparatively simple procedure. In case of Orange-A, Orange-B and Red Category industries and projects, Site Clearance is mandatory at the beginning, then EIA approval and finally Environmental Clearance is issued. The Environment Clearance is to be renewed after three (03) years for Green category and one (01) year for Orange-A, Orange-B and Red category industries respectively.

Environmental Clearance Certificate's shall be issued to all existing industrial units and projects and to all proposed industrial units and projects falling in the Green Category. For industrial units and projects falling in the Orange-A, Orange-B, first a Site Clearance Certificate and thereafter an Environmental Clearance Certificate shall be issued. In case of Red category industries, firstly a Location Clearance Certificate, then Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) approval and thereafter an Environmental Clearance Certificate shall be issued.

### **Documents Required for Different Categories of Industrial Units or Projects:**

#### **1. Green**

1. Application through prescribed form-3 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997
2. Prescribed fees under schedule-13 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997 (Amended 2002)
3. General information about the industrial unit or project;
4. Exact description of the raw materials and the manufactured product; and
5. No objection certificate (Prescribed Form) from the local authority;

If an application for an Environmental Clearance Certificate for an industrial unit or project of Green Category is made under article 7(5) along with the relevant documents specified in Article 7(6), then, within 15 days of the receipt of the application, the certificate shall be issued or the application shall be rejected mentioning appropriate reason for such rejection.

#### **2. Orange-A**

1. Application through prescribed form-3 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997
2. Prescribed fees under schedule-13 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997 (Amended 2002)
3. General information about the industrial unit or project;
4. Exact description of the raw materials and the manufactured product;
5. No objection certificate (Prescribed Form) from the local authority;
6. Process flow diagram;
7. Layout Plan (showing location of Effluent Treatment Plant);
8. Effluent discharge arrangement;
9. Outlines of the plan for relocation, rehabilitation (if applicable);
10. Other necessary information (if applicable);

If an application is made under Article 7(5) along with the relevant documents specified in Article 7(6), then in the case of an Orange- A Category industrial unit or project, within 30 days of the receipt of the application.

### **3. Orange-B**

1. Application through prescribed form-3 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997
2. Prescribed fees under schedule-13 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997 (Amended 2002)
3. Report on the feasibility of the industrial unit or project (applicable only for proposed industrial unit or project);
4. Report on the Initial Environmental Examination of the industrial unit or project, and also the process flow diagram, Layout Plan (showing location of Effluent Treatment Plant), design of the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) of the unit or project (these are applicable only for a proposed industrial unit or project);
5. Report on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the industrial unit or project, and also the Process Flow Diagram, Layout Plan (showing location of Effluent Treatment Plant), design of the Effluent Treatment Plant and information about the effectiveness of the ETP of the unit or project, (these are applicable only for an existing industrial unit or project);
6. No objection certificate (Prescribed Form) from the local authority;
7. Emergency plan relating adverse environmental impact and plan for mitigation of the effect of pollution;
8. Outline of the relocation, rehabilitation plan (where applicable);
9. Other necessary information (where applicable).

If an application is made under Article 7(5) along with the relevant documents specified in Article 7(6), then Orange-B Category industrial unit or project, within 60 days of the receipt of the application, a Location Clearance Certificate shall be issued or the application shall be rejected mentioning appropriate reasons for such rejection.

### **4. Red**

1. Application through prescribed form-3 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997
2. Prescribed fees under schedule-13 under Environment Conservation Rules 1997 (Amended 2002)
3. Report on the feasibility of the industrial unit or project (applicable only for proposed industrial unit or project);
4. Report on the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) relating to the industrial unit or project, and also the terms of reference (ToR) for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the unit or the project and its Process Flow Diagram; or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report prepared on the basis of terms of reference previously approved by the Department of Environment, along with the Layout Plan (showing location of Effluent Treatment Plant), Process Flow Diagram, design and time schedule of the Effluent Treatment Plant of the unit or project, (these are applicable only for a proposed industrial unit or project);
5. Report on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the industrial unit or project, and also the Process Flow Diagram, Layout Plan (showing location of Effluent Treatment Plant), design and information about the effectiveness of the Effluent Treatment Plan of the unit or project (these are applicable only for an existing industrial unit or project);
6. No objection certificate (Prescribed Form) of the local authority;
7. Emergency plan relating adverse environmental impact and plan for mitigation of the effect of pollution;
8. Outline of relocation, rehabilitation plan (where applicable);
9. Other necessary information (where applicable);

If an application is made under Article 7(5) along with the relevant documents specified in Article 7(6), then Red Category industrial unit or project, within 60 days of the receipt of the application, a

Location Clearance Certificate shall be issued or the application shall be rejected mentioning appropriate reasons for such rejection.

### General Process Steps for Environmental Clearance:

- Step 1 : Submit application with supporting documents.
- Step 2 : Verification of application and supporting documents by DOE
- Step 3 : Inspection by the authorized officer after verification of all report and documents.  
[Then make decision about the clearance (Only Green and Orange-A)]
- Step 4 : Meeting of Environmental Clearance Committee (for Orange-B and Red Category)
- Step 5 : Decision

### Time Frame:

S.L.	Category	Site Clearance	Environmental Clearance
1.	Green	N/A	15 Days
2.	Orange-A	30 Days	15 Days
3.	Orange-B	60 Days	30 Days
4.	Red	60 Days	30 Days

### Fee Schedule:

Fees payable under these Rules shall be deposited with the Bangladesh Bank or a Government Treasury by a Treasury Chalan in favour of the Director General under the Head 1 – 4541 – 0000 – 2681.

S.L.	Investment Amount (BDT)	Environmental Clearance Fees (BDT)	Renewal Fees (BDT)
A	B	C	D
1.	100,000 - 500,000	1,500	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
2.	500,000 - 1,000,000	3,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
3.	1,000,000 - 5,000,000	5,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
4.	5,000,000 - 10,000,000	10,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
5.	10,000,000 - 50,000,000	20,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
6.	50,000,000 - 200,000,000	40,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
7.	200,000,000 - 500,000,000	80,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
8.	500,000,000 – 1,000,000,000	120,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
9.	1,000,000,000 - 2,000,000,000	200,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
10.	2,000,000,000 - 5,000,000,000	300,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
11.	5,000,000,000 - 10,000,000,000	400,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C
12.	Above 10,000,000,000	500,000	1/4 <sup>th</sup> of the stated amount of column C

**Renewal Process:**

The period of validity of an Environmental Clearance Certificate shall be, in case of Green Category, 3 years from the date of its issuance and in all other cases 1 year. Each Environmental Clearance Certificate has to be applied for renewal at least thirty (30) days before expiry.

**SCHEDULE – 1**

**Classification of industrial units or projects based on its location  
and impact on environment.**

[ See Rule 7(2) ]

**(A) GREEN Category**

1. Assembling and manufacturing of TV, Radio, etc.
2. Assembling and manufacturing of clocks and watches.
3. Assembling of telephones.
4. Assembling and manufacturing of toys (plastic made items excluded).
5. Book-binding.
6. Rope and mats (made of cotton, jute and artificial fibers).
7. Photography (movie and x-ray excluded).
8. Production of artificial leather goods.
9. Assembling of motorcycles, bicycles and toy cycles.
10. Assembling of scientific and mathematical instruments (excluding manufacturing).
11. Musical instruments.
12. Sports goods (excluding plastic made items).
13. Tea packaging (excluding processing).
14. Re-packing of milk powder (excluding production).
15. Bamboo and cane goods.
16. Artificial flower (excluding plastic made items).
17. Pen and ball-pen.
18. Gold ornaments (excluding production) (shops only).
19. Candle.
20. Medical and surgical instrument (excluding production).
21. Factory for production of cork items (excluding metallic items).
22. Laundry (excluding washing).

**Foot Notes:**

- (a) Units of all kinds of cottage industries other than those listed in this Schedule shall remain outside the purview of Environmental Clearance Certificate (Unit of cottage industry means all industrial units producing



goods or services in which by full-time or part-time labour of family members are engaged and the capital investment of which does not exceed Taka 5 (five) hundred thousand).

- (b) No industrial unit listed in this Schedule shall be located in any residential area.
- (c) Industrial units shall preferably be located in areas declared as industrial zones or in areas where there is concentration of industries or in vacant areas.
- (d) Industrial units likely to produce sound, smoke, odor beyond permissible limit shall not be acceptable in commercial areas.

**(B) ORANGE-A Category**

- 1. Dairy Farm, 10 (ten) cattle heads or below in urban areas and 25 cattle heads or below in rural areas.
- 2. Poultry (up to 250 in urban areas and up to 1000 in rural areas).
- 3. Grinding/husking of wheat, rice, turmeric, pepper, pulses (up to 20 Horse Power).
- 4. Weaving and handloom.
- 5. Production of shoes and leather goods (capital up to 5 hundred thousand Taka).
- 6. Saw mill/wood sawing.
- 7. Furniture of wood/iron, aluminum, etc.,(capital up to 5 hundred thousand Taka).
- 8. Printing Press.
- 9. Plastic & rubber goods (excluding PVC).
- 10. Restaurant.
- 11. Cartoon/box manufacturing/printing packaging.
- 12. Cinema Hall.
- 13. Dry-cleaning.
- 14. Production of artificial leather goods (capital up to 5 hundred thousand Taka).
- 15. Sports goods.
- 16. Production of salt (capital up to 10 hundred thousand Taka).
- 17. Agricultural machinery and equipment.
- 18. Industrial machinery and equipment.

19. Production of gold ornaments.
20. Pin, U Pin.
21. Frames of spectacles.
22. Comb.
23. Production of utensils and souvenirs of brass and bronze.
24. Factory for production of biscuit and bread (capital up to 5 hundred thousand Taka).
25. Factory for production of chocolate and lozenge. (capital up to 5 hundred thousand Taka).
26. Manufacturing of wooden water vessels.

**(C) ORANGE-B Category**

1. PVC items.
2. Artificial fiber (raw material).
3. Glass factory.
4. Life saving drug (applicable to formulation only).
5. Edible oil.
6. Tar.
7. Jute mill.
8. Hotel, multi-storied commercial & apartment building.
9. Casting.
10. Aluminum products.
11. Glue (excluding animal glue).
12. Bricks/tiles.
13. Lime.
14. Plastic products.
15. Processing and bottling of drinking water and carbonated drinks.
16. Galvanizing.
17. Perfumes, cosmetics.
18. Flour (large).
19. Carbon rod.
20. Stone grinding, cutting, polishing.

*E.C.R.- Schedule-1*

21. Processing fish, meat, food.
22. Printing and writing ink.
23. Animal feed.
24. Ice-cream.
25. Clinic and pathological lab.
26. Utensils made of clay and china clay/sanitary wares (ceramics).
27. Processing of prawns & shrimps.
28. Water purification plant.
29. Metal utensils/spoons etc.
30. Sodium silicate.
31. Matches.
32. Starch and glucose.
33. Animal feed.
34. Automatic rice mill.
35. Assembling of motor vehicles.
36. Manufacturing of wooden vessel.
37. Photography (activities related to production of films for movie and x-ray).
38. Tea processing.
39. Production of powder milk/condensed milk/dairy.
40. Re-rolling.
41. Wood treatment.
42. Soap.
43. Repairing of refrigerators.
44. Repairing of metal vessel.
45. Engineering works (up to 10 hundred thousand Taka capital.)
46. Spinning mill.
47. Electric cable.
48. Cold storage.
49. Tire re-treading.
50. Motor vehicles repairing works (up to 10 hundred thousand Taka capital).

51. Cattle farm: above 10 (ten) numbers in urban area, and above 25 (twenty five) numbers in rural area.
52. Poultry: Number of birds above 250 (two hundred fifty) in urban area and above 1000 (one thousand) in rural area.
53. Grinding/husking wheat, rice, turmeric, chilly, pulses – machine above 20 Horse Power.
54. Production of shoes and leather goods, above 5(five) hundred thousand Taka capital.
55. Furniture of wood/iron, aluminum, etc., above 5(five) hundred thousand Taka capital.
56. Production of artificial leather goods, above 5(five) hundred thousand Taka capital.
57. Salt production, above 10(ten) hundred thousand Taka capital.
58. Biscuit and bread factory, above 5 (five) hundred thousand Taka capital.
59. Factory for production of chocolate and lozenge, above 5(five) hundred thousand Taka capital.
60. Garments and sweater production.
61. Fabric washing.
62. Power loom.
63. Construction, re-construction and extension of road (feeder road, local road).
64. Construction, re-construction and extension of bridge (length below 100 meters).
65. Public toilet.
66. Ship-breaking.
67. G.I. Wire.
68. Assembling batteries.
69. Dairy and food.

**Foot Notes:**

- (a) No industrial unit included in this list shall be located in any residential area.
- (b) Industrial units shall preferably be located in areas declared as industrial zones or in areas where there is concentration of industries or in vacant areas.

- (c) Industrial units likely to produce sound, smoke, odor beyond permissible limit shall not be acceptable in commercial areas.

**(D) RED Category**

1. Tannery.
2. Formaldehyde.
3. Urea fertilizer.
4. T.S.P. Fertilizer.
5. Chemical dyes, polish, varnish, enamel.
6. Power plant.
7. All mining projects (coal, limestone, hard rock, natural gas, mineral oil, etc.)
8. Cement.
9. Fuel oil refinery.
10. Artificial rubber.
11. Paper and pulp.
12. Sugar.
13. Distillery.
14. Fabric dyeing and chemical processing.
15. Caustic soda, potash.
16. Other alkalis.
17. Production of iron and steel.
18. Raw materials of medicines and basic drugs.
19. Electroplating.
20. Photo films, photo papers and photo chemicals.
21. Various products made from petroleum and coal.
22. Explosives.
23. Acids and their salts (organic or inorganic).
24. Nitrogen compounds (Cyanide, Cyanamid etc.).
25. Production of plastic raw materials (PVC, PP/Iron, Polyesterin etc.)
26. Asbestos.
27. Fiberglass.

28. Pesticides, fungicides and herbicides.
29. Phosphorus and its compounds/derivatives.
30. Chlorine, fluorine, bromine, iodine and their compounds/derivatives.
31. Industry (excluding nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide).
32. Waste incinerator.
33. Other chemicals.
34. Ordnance.
35. Nuclear power.
36. Wine.
37. Non-metallic chemicals not listed elsewhere.
38. Non-metals not listed elsewhere.
39. Industrial estate.
40. Basic industrial chemicals.
41. Non-iron basic metals.
42. Detergent.
43. Land-filling by industrial, household and commercial wastes.
44. Sewage treatment plant.
45. Life saving drugs.
46. Animal glue.
47. Rodenticide.
48. Refractories.
49. Industrial gas (Oxygen, Nitrogen & Carbon-dioxide).
50. Battery.
51. Hospital.
52. Ship manufacturing.
53. Tobacco (processing/cigarette/Biri-making).
54. Metallic boat manufacturing.
55. Wooden boat manufacturing.
56. Refrigerator/air-conditioner/air-cooler manufacturing.
57. Tyre and tube.
58. Board mills.

59. Carpets.
60. Engineering works: capital above 10 (ten) hundred thousand Taka.
61. Repairing of motor vehicles: capital above 10 (ten) hundred thousand Taka.
62. Water treatment plant.
63. Sewerage pipe line laying/relaying/extension.
64. Water, power and gas distribution line laying/relaying/extension.
65. Exploration/extraction/distribution of mineral resources.
66. Construction/reconstruction/expansion of flood control embankment, polder, dike, etc.
67. Construction/reconstruction/expansion of road (regional, national & international).
68. Construction/reconstruction/expansion of bridge (length 100 meter and above).
69. Murate of Potash (manufacturing).

**Foot Notes:**

- (a) No industrial unit included in this list shall be allowed to be located in any residential area.
- (b) Industrial units shall preferably be located in areas declared as industrial zones or in areas where there is concentration of industries or in vacant areas.
- (c) Industrial units likely to produce sound, smoke, odor beyond permissible limit shall not be acceptable in commercial areas.
- (d) After obtaining location clearance on the basis of Initial Environment Examination (IEE) Report, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report in accordance with the approved terms of reference along with design of ETP and its time schedule shall be submitted within approved time limit.

**Annex-II: Prescribed Form for Environment Clearance Application**

**FORM – 3**

**Application for Environmental Clearance Certificate**

[See Rule 7(5)]

Director/Deputy Director,  
Department of Environment,  
Dhaka Division/Chittagong Division/Khulna Division/Rajshahi Division (Bogra).

Sir,

I do hereby apply for Environmental Clearance Certificate for my proposed industrial unit or project, or for the existing industrial unit or project, and enclose papers and furnish information as follows :

- 1.(a) Name of the industrial unit or project :  
Address of location of the industrial unit or project :  
(b) Address of present office :
- 2.(a) Proposed industrial unit or project  
: Expected date of starting construction :  
: Expected date of completion of construction :  
: Expected date of trial production in case of :  
industrial unit, in other cases, date of starting  
operation of the project  
(b) Existing industrial unit or project  
: Date of starting trial production in case of :  
industrial unit, in other cases, date of starting  
operation of the project
3. Name of product and quantity to be produced :  
(daily/monthly/yearly)
- 4.(a) Name of raw materials and quantity required :  
(daily/monthly/yearly)  
(b) Source of raw material :
- 5.(a) Quantity of water to be used daily :  
(b) Source of water :



- 6.(a) Name of fuel and quantity required :  
(daily/monthly/yearly)
- (b) Source of fuel :
- 7.(a) Probable quantity of daily liquid waste :  
(b) Location of waste discharge :  
(c) Probable quantity of daily emission of gaseous :  
substance  
(d) Mode of emission of gaseous substance :
8. Mouza (village) map indicating “Daag” (plot) :  
number and “Khatiyān” (land tax account)  
number
9. Approval of Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkhya/ :  
Chittgong Development Authority/Khulna  
Development Authority/ Rajshahi  
Development Authority (if applicable).
- 10.(a) Design & time schedule of proposed Effluent :  
Treatment Plant  
(b) Fund allocated :  
(c) Area :
11. Process Flow Diagram :
- 12.(a) Location map of industrial unit or project :  
(b) Layout plan (with location of Effluent :  
Treatment Plant)
- 13.(a) IEE/IEA report\* (if applicable) :  
(b) Environmental Management Plan\* (if :  
applicable)
14. Feasibility Report (if applicable) :

Seal

Signature of the entrepreneur

Name :

Address:

Phone :

Date :

**-: Declaration :-**

I do hereby declare that all information provided by me in this application are true to the best of my knowledge and no information has been concealed or distorted herein.

(Name & signature of entrepreneur)

- \* Each page be countersigned by the person who fills out this application form and by the entrepreneur.