

F. No. IA-J-11011/395/2025-IA-II(I)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division Industry- III Sector)

**Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003**

Dated:17th December, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Clarification on the term “same category” mentioned in paragraph 7(ii) (b) of the EIA Notification 2006 – reg.

The Ministry vide Notification S.O. 980(E) dated 2nd March 2021, has amended the EIA Notification 2006 to make a provision wherein, any increase in production capacity in respect of processing or production or manufacturing sectors (listed against item numbers 2,3, 4 and 5 in the Schedule to this notification) with or without any change in (i) raw material-mix or (ii) product-mix or (ii) quantities within products or (ii) number of products including new products falling in the same category or (iv) configuration of the plant or process or operations in existing area or in areas contiguous to the existing area (for which prior environmental clearance has been granted) shall be exempt from the requirement of prior Environmental Clearance (EC), provided that, there is no increase in pollution load (derived on the basis of such prior EC).

2. The Ministry has received representations requesting to clarify the term “same category” mentioned in paragraph 7(ii) (b) of the EIA Notification 2006. The provisions of paragraph 7(ii) (b) is applicable to entries 2,3,4,5 of the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006.


3. The matter has been examined in the Ministry and it was observed that the categories in other entries mentioned above are self-explanatory and perceived ambiguity in respect of “same category” generally arises with regard to ECs granted to Synthetic Organic Chemicals which are covered under item 5 (f) of the EIA Notification 2006, as it covers different categories of chemicals as mentioned below:

- a. Dyes and dye intermediates
- b. Bulk drugs and intermediates excluding drug formulations
- c. Synthetic rubbers
- d. Basic organic chemicals

e. Other synthetic organic chemicals and chemical intermediates

4. In this regard, the Ministry hereby clarifies that as per the provisions of paragraph 7(ii) (b), for ECs granted under the item 5(f) of the EIA Notification 2006, any change in the quantities or numbers of products within each of the above-mentioned categories i.e. a,b,c,d,e, may be treated as "same category" and shall be exempt from the requirement of prior EC, provided that, there is no increase in pollution load (derived on the basis of such prior EC).

5. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(A N Singh)
Scientist 'F'

To

1. The Chairman, CPCB
2. The Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. The Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs.
4. The Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs /UTPCCs.
5. All the officers of IA Division

Copy for information

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to the Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to the AS(AG)
5. PPS to the JS(RA)
6. Website of MoEF&CC/ Guard file