

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
CP DIVISION

OFFICE MEMORANDUM
12th AUGUST, 2011

Subject: Addendum to the guidelines for recognition of Environmental Laboratories under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

In continuation to the Guidelines for Recognition of Environmental Laboratories under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 published under Laboratory Analytical Techniques Series LATS/9/2008-2009 dated June, 2008 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Central Pollution Control Board, the following is issued with immediate effect:

Essential Pre-Requisites

The following essential pre-requisites will be added at Page No. 55 of the Revised Guidelines for Recognition of Environmental Laboratories under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

1. All Environmental Laboratories (Private / NGOs / Government / Autonomous / Public Sector Undertakings / Educational Institutes / State / Central Pollution Control Board Laboratories) should have either ISO 17025 (NABL Accreditation) or ISO 9001 alongwith OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management System) Certifications before submission of application for consideration of Recognition under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. All State Pollution Control Boards Headquarters Laboratories / Central Laboratories must also acquire accreditation under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, ISO 17025 (NABL Accreditation) or ISO 9001 Certification alongwith OHSAS 18001 Certification within a period of one year.

Schedule for Implementation

1. All New environmental laboratories (Private / NGOs / Government / Autonomous / Public Sector Undertakings / Educational Institutes / State / Central Pollution Control Board Laboratories) should acquire either ISO 17025 (NABL Accreditation) or ISO 9001 alongwith OHSAS 18001 Certification before submission of application for consideration of recognition under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The application/s of various New laboratories presently pending for accreditation in the Ministry of Environment & Forests / Central Pollution Control Board shall also be covered with above essential pre-requisites.
3. Existing recognised Laboratories (Private / NGOs / Government / Autonomous / Public Sector Undertakings / Educational Institutes / State / Central Pollution Control Board Laboratories) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, where validity is upto 31st August, 2012 shall get 12 month's additional time to acquire the required Accreditation / Certification to achieve eligibility under the essential pre-requisites.

As a transitional arrangement, these recognized laboratories shall be granted one year conditional renewal of their recognition under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in case, their expiry is on or before 31st August, 2012, to achieve requirements under above mentioned additional essential pre-requisites.


(Rajneesh Dube)
Joint Secretary

CC: Chairman, CPCB/all SPCBs/PCCs