

**F. No. IA3-22/19/2021-IA.III [E 164361]**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Impact Assessment Division)**

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

**ORDER**

**Sub: Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to not grant or renew CTO unless Environment Clearance, as applicable, has been obtained – regarding.**

Whereas, prior Environmental Clearance is a statutory requirement for project/activities covered in the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006, issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. And whereas, obtaining the consents under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 is mandatory for all industrial units in Red, Orange and Green categories.

3. And whereas, the grant of EC and Consents are requirements under different statutes and are not inter-dependent and can be carried out as a parallel process.

4. And whereas, many a times it has been observed that while industrial units are in possession of valid 'Consent to Establish' (CTE)/ 'Consent to Operate' (CTO) issued by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ UT Pollution Control Committees (UTPCC), however, they have not obtained the Environmental Clearance (EC), even though it was required as per provisions of EIA Notification 2006.

5. And whereas, it has been observed that this situation is arising because majority of the SPCBs/ UTPCCs are issuing CTE/CTO to projects without ascertaining the applicability of prior EC to projects/ activities, resulting in an avoidable situation of closure for even those industries also who seek to carry out their activities following due procedure.

6. Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government, hereby directs that all SPCB/UTPCC shall:

- i. Ascertain the applicability of EIA Notification at the time of grant/renewal of CTE and stipulate appropriate condition for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC), if applicable, before construction/commencement of project/activity.
- ii. Ensure that the project proponent possesses a valid Prior EC in terms of the extant EIA Notification, if applicable, at the time of grant/renewal of CTO and no CTO shall be granted or renewed unless EC, if applicable, has been obtained.

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

  
(A K Agrawal)  
Director

To

Chairmen of all State/UT Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to AS(RA)/JS(SKB)
5. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
6. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
7. All the Officers of IA Division, MOEFCC
8. Website MoEF&CC/ Guard file.