

# EIA Consultant Accreditation



# QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA

- A 'Not-for-profit' organization
- Set up jointly by the Govt. of India and the Industry (CII, FICCI, ASSOCHEM)
- **Council** – 38 members  
with representation of Government, Industry, Technical institutions and Consumers.
- **Governing Body** – 17 members out of the council
- **Chairman** - appointed by the Prime Minister on recommendation of the Government & Industry.
- **Present Chairman:** Shri. Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission.

# Structure of QCI



# Why the Scheme

- EIAs are an integral part of country's developmental process
- Most projects require environmental clearance from the central or the state authorities
- EIAs prepared, in many cases, are not up to the mark for evaluating the impacts of the proposed developmental activities on the environment

# What is the Scheme

- The Scheme defines requirements for EIA Consultants under 4 heads :
  - Quality of human resource
    - EIA Coordinators
    - Functional Area Experts
  - Systems & Procedures
  - Field Investigation & Data Integrity
  - Organizational commitment to prepare quality EIAs



# Background of Scheme

August 2007 – Launched as voluntary Scheme

December 2009 - Made mandatory by MOEF

August 2012 - About 140 Organizations accredited

# Basic Features of Scheme

## 1. Human Resource

### ➤ EIA Coordinator :

- Key person, coordinates all activities
- Clear concept of EIA and knowledge of relevant rules & regulations
- Domain knowledge of the sector
- Broad understanding of the env. aspects of the sector
- Maturity & leadership quality to guide the EIA team

# Basic features of Scheme (contd.)

## ➤ Functional Area Experts :

- Specialists in knowledge areas like Water pollution, Air pollution, Ecology, Socio Economy etc.
- Identification and assessment of impacts
- Suggesting/ vetting mitigation measures





# Qualification & Experience

## EIA COORDINATOR –

### Qualification

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in technical subjects or
- Master's degree in Science or other subjects

### Experience

- EIA related - 7 years minimum
- Sector Specific
  - 2 years in that industry, or
  - 3 EIAs in that Sector, or
  - 3 Env Assignments in that Sector

# Qualification & Experience

## FUNCTIONAL AREA EXPERT –

### Qualification

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in technical subjects or
- Master's degree in Physical/ Environmental/ Life Sciences/ Social Sciences/ Economics in specific disciplines

### Experience

- Category B – Min 3 years in the functional area out of which 1 year EIA related
- Category A - Min 5/3 years

**Category A & B** – as defined in MOEF Notification of Sep 2006 for projects to be cleared at the central and state levels respectively

# Functional Areas

1. Land Use	LU
2. Air Pollution Monitoring, Prevention & Control	AP*
3. Meteorology, Air Quality Modeling & prediction	AQ
4. Water Pollution Monitoring, Prevention & Control	WP *
5. Ecology & Biodiversity	EB*
6. Noise &Vibration	NV
7. Socio- Economic Aspects	SE*
8. Hydrology, Ground Water & Water Conservation	HG
9. Geology	GEO
10. Soil Conservation	SC
11. Risk & Hazards Management	RH
12. Solid & Hazardous Waste Management (including Municipal solid wastes) (HW/SW/MSW)	SHW*

\* Core functional Areas

# Field Investigation

## ➤ Primary data

- Physical environment like air, water, soil, noise etc
- Biotic environment
- Social environment including resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) plan

## ➤ Site visits by EC and relevant FAEs to familiarize with site

## ➤ NABL accredited or MOEF recognized laboratory



# Assessment Process

**Assessment for** – Initial Assessment for Accreditation

- Surveillance Assessment after 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> years
- After 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Re-accreditation

**Stages of Assessment** –

For both, Initial & Surveillance Assessments

**Stage I** – checking the completeness of the application/documents by the NABET secretariat.

**Stage II** – technical assessment of documents by the PA

**Stage III** – office assessment including the interaction with experts by the PA & AA



# Marking Criteria

## Initial Assessment

S.No.	Item	Marks
1	Quality of personnel based on interaction	
	i. EIA Coordinator/ s	20
	ii. Functional Area Expert/ s	20
2	Development of and conformance to Quality Manual	15
3	Field investigation and laboratory work	20
4	Completeness of EIA prepared by Applicant	10
5	Organizational Evaluation (including office facilities)	15
	Total	100

# Accreditation Process

- Accreditation for 3 years subject to yearly surveillance assessment
- Accreditation given for two categories –
- **Category A** – > 60% marks
  - For both, Category A & B projects
- **Category B** – 40% and more but < 60%
  - For Category B projects
- Individual Experts will also be categorized as A or B depending on their experience & assessment
- Those scoring < 40% marks can not be given accreditation

# **Surveillance Assessment**

- 1. Compliance with conditions of accreditation**
- 2. Field investigation and laboratory systems to ensure data integrity**
- 3. Quality Management Systems**
- 4. Content & Quality of EIAs**
- 5. Public Consultation**
- 6. Performance of approved experts**
- 7. Organizational Evaluation**

# Surveillance Assessment

(Similar system for document & office assessment)

S. No	Item	Marks
1	Compliance with conditions of Accreditation	10
2	Field investigation and laboratory system to ensure data integrity	15
3	Implementation of QMS	20
4	Content & quality of EIAs	20
5	Public consultation & action plan	10
6	Performance of approved experts	10
7	Organizational evaluation	15
	Total	100

## Surveillance Assessment - Criteria

1. Minimum 50 % for continuation of accreditation
2. < 40% - accreditation will be withdrawn.
3. 40% - 50% - alert letter to improve
4. < 50% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> SA, accreditation will be withdrawn.
5. For approved experts, similar criteria as above
6. At the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the AC is expected to score 60% or above



# Current Status

- Total No of Applications 333
- Consultants organisations accredited 140
- Applications rejected/ineligible 116
- Applications under processing 77



# Levels of Biodiversity

- Species diversity
- Genetic diversity
- Ecosystem diversity

# Green Belt

- Objective of Green Belt
- Choice of Species
- Green Belt Design
- Time Schedule
- Provision of Funds

# Challenges

- Inadequate understanding of Biodiversity issues by consultants organisations and decision makers.
- Non-availability of experts specially for Ecology, Socio-economy, Risk & Hazards
- Lack of reliable data
- Poor compensatory and conservation measure (or “biodiversity offset”) .
- No precedence – everything development of the scheme, fine tuning, assessment process, training of assessors to be evolved.
- Shortage of assessors having expertise in biodiversity issues.



*Thank you!*

