



Government of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Regulation of Wood Based Industries Rules, 2010

(Corrected up to 31st Dec 2021)

**Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest
Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai – 600 009**

Tamil Nadu Regulation of Wood Based Industries Rules, 2010

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 26 read with Sections 35 and 63 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 (Tamil Nadu Act V of 1882) the Government of Tamil Nadu hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

RULES

1. Short title and commencement. — (1) These rules may be called the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Wood Based Industries Rules, 2010.

(2) They shall come into force on and from the 21st October 2010.

2. Definitions. — (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires;

- (a) “Conservator” means the Conservator of Forests or the Chief Conservator of Forests or the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests having territorial jurisdiction over the area in a Forest Circle;
- (b) “Field Director of Tiger Reserve” means a Forest Officer appointed by the Government as Field Director of a Tiger Reserve;
- (c) “Form” means the Form appended to these rules;
- (d) “Government” means the Government of Tamil Nadu;
- (d-a) “Industrial Estate” means areas notified by the Government for establishment of wood based industries;
- (e) “licence” means the licence issued under these rules;
- (f) “Licencing Officer” means the District Forest Officer or Wildlife Warden or Deputy Director of Tiger Reserve or Divisional Forest Officer having territorial jurisdiction over the area in the district;
- (g) “Principal Chief Conservator” means the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department) Tamil Nadu;
- (g-a) “Round log” means a piece of wood in its natural form, having mid girth of thirty centimetre or more under bark and it includes such round log even after its bark has been removed or its surface has been dressed, manually or by using a band saw or any other machine or equipment to make its cross section squares or near-square for the purpose of ease in its transportation and / or storage;

- (g-b) “Saw Mill” means plants and machinery in a fixed structures or enclosure, for conversion of round logs into sawn timber;
- (g-c) “Sawn Timber” means beams, scantlings, planks, battens and such other product obtained from a sawing of a round log;
- (g-d) “Committee” means the state level committee constituted under rule 3 – A of these rules;
- (h) “Wood based industry” means any industry which processes wood as its raw material (Saw mills / Veneer / Plywood / or any other form such as sandal, Katha wood, etc)

(2) Words and expressions used in these rules, but not defined shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 (Tamil Nadu Act V of 1882).

3. Restriction on establishment of Wood Based Industries. — No person shall establish or operate any wood based industries including the existing unit, unless a licence is obtained by him in accordance with these rules.

Provided that the following industries or processing plants not using round logs of domestic origin or operating without a band saw or re-saw or circular saw of more than thirty centimetre diameter shall not require licence, namely:-

Industries or processing plants which use,- (a) sawn timber, cane, bamboo, reed, plywood, veneers or imported wood, procured from legitimate sources;

- (b) black board, medium density fibreboard or similar wood-based products, procured from legitimate sources;
- (c) round log of timber from species declared as agro-forestry or agricultural crops and / or exempted from the purview of the felling and transit regime in Tamil Nadu and procured from legitimate sources;

Provided further that the Committee may allow installation of circular saw of diameter up to 60 centimeter in such industries having specialized requirement. Such industries shall be registered with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and shall be regulated as per the norms prescribed by the Government.

3 – A. State Level Committee .- (1) The Government shall constitute a State Level Committee to perform the functions stipulated under rule 3 – B.

- (2) The Committee shall consists of the following :-

- (i) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of : Chairperson
Department), Tamil Nadu
- (ii) A representative of the Regional Office of the : Member
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate
Change
- (iii) A representative of the Tamil Nadu Forest : Member
Department not below the rank of a Conservator of
Forests dealing with preparation of Working Plans
or Working Schemes
- (iv) Director or the Additional Director of Industries : Member
- (v) A representative of the Forest Development : Member
Corporation
- (vi) An officer not below the rank of Conservator of : Member Secretary
Forests working in the Forest Head Quarters
- (vii) The Committee may co-opt an officer from Territorial wing of the Tamil Nadu
Forest Department not below the rank of Conservator of Forests and officers
from Department of Agriculture and Department of Revenue of the State of
Tamil Nadu.

(3) The Committee shall meet at least once in three months.

(4) The quorum of the meeting shall be at least fifty percent of the members, excluding the Chairman.

(5) The Committee shall invite one representative of the industry nominated by the saw-mill association as a special invitee to each and every meeting of the Committee.

3 – B. Powers and functions of the Committee, - The Committee shall perform the following functions, namely:-

- (a) assess the availability of timber in the State by way of appropriate study on demand and supply as and when it decides and shall devise suitable mechanism for sustainable use of timber in a way that does not affect the forests of the area adversely.

- (b) approve the name of wood based industries which may be considered for grant of fresh licence or enhancement of the existing licensed capacity in case the Committee is satisfied that timber is available legally for the said new Wood Based Industries, such as, trees outside forests, forests, etc;
- (c) ensure that the amount lying with Tamil Nadu Forest Department as recovered from Wood Based Industries is utilized for the purpose of afforestation only.
- (d) Examine and make appropriate recommendations or any other matter referred by the Government to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

3 – C. Estimated annual consumption of timber by wood based industries. -

(1) (a) For the purpose of assessing the timber requirement of the saw mills, they may be divided into,-

- (a) Saw mills up to 10 HP
- (b) Saw mills between 10 HP and 20 HP
- (c) Saw mills between 20 HP and 40 HP
- (d) Saw mills between 40 HP and 60 HP and
- (e) Saw mills above 60 HP

(b) The annual requirement of round log for saw mills of different capacities may be fixed by the Committee based on the technical data or as per the formula given below, namely:-

- (i) Saw mills of 10 HP and below: 540 cu. Mt. (base value)
- (ii) Saw mills between 10 HP and 20 HP: 810 cu. mt. (1.5 time the base value)
- (iii) Saw mills between 20 HP and 40 HP: 1080 cu. mt. (2 times of the base value)
- (iv) Saw mills between 40 HP and 60 HP: 1620 cu. mt. (3 times of the base value)
- (v) Saw mills above 60 HP: 2160 cu. mt. (4 times of the base value)

(2) The Timber requirement for various units as assessed by Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore is given in the Annexure.

4. Application for grant of licence — (1) No licence to a wood based industry shall be granted without obtaining prior approval of the Committee.

(2) Any person, seeking a licence under these rules, shall make an application to the Licencing Officer in Form-I. The person seeking licence, shall pay such fee as may be specified by the Government from time to time, along with application. The fees paid shall not be refunded under any circumstances.

(3) The licence shall be granted by the Licencing Officer in Form-II after satisfying himself that the application is in accordance with all the regulatory mechanism in force for the time being and that the establishment of wood based industries will not have any adverse impact on forests. The licence will be valid for a period of five years.

(4) No licence for setting up new wood based industries within a distance of two kilometres from the boundary of any 'forest' whether notified or not, shall be granted, except when it is required for Departmental use. The distance of two kilometers shall be computed from topo sheets as aerial distance as crow flies.

(5) A Wood Based Industry can be established in an industrial Estate or a Municipal area, irrespective of the aerial distance from the boundary of nearest notified forest or protected area.

5. Renewal of Licence.— (1) Any person who has been granted licence under these rules, may apply for renewal of the licence in Form-I within a period of three months before the expiry of the period, for which licence was granted to him along with such fee, as may be specified by the Government from time to time. In case the licensee fails to submit his application for renewal within the stipulated period, renewal of licence can be considered by the licensing authority, provided a fee equal to double the fee specified by the Government for renewal is paid by the applicant and the application is made before the expiry of the licence. The renewal applications received after the prescribed time limit will be considered and decided by the competent authority as per the guidelines notified by the State Government in this regard from time to time.

(2) On receipt of an application under sub-rule (1), the Licensing Officer, after satisfying himself that the application is in accordance with all the regulatory mechanism in-force for the time being and that the establishment of wood based industries will not have any adverse impact on forests and after the approval of the Committee shall renew the licence in Form-II for a further period of five years.

6. Transfer of licence. — The licence shall normally be non-transferable. However, transfer of licence can be allowed from one person to another by the

Conservator of Forests or Field Director as the case may be in cases of sale, inheritance, division of property, family arrangement and dissolution of partnership, subject to the approval of the Committee.

7. Timber to be covered by Transit Permit.— The licensee shall not receive any timber not covered by transit permit prescribed by the Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules, 1968 for conversion or any other purpose and he shall not allow any timber, after conversion or otherwise, to leave the Wood Based Industries premises without issuing a delivery chalan in Form-III.

8. Maintenance of records. — (1) Every licensee shall maintain proper record of the receipt and disposal of timber in Form-IV.

(2) The licensee shall produce the record for scrutiny and checking of the timber, whenever it is required by the Licencing Officer or any other officer authorised by him.

9. Power to search the premises.— Any forest officer not below the rank of 'Forester' may, at any time, enter the premises of any Wood based industry unit with a view to ascertain the genuineness of the licence or to check legality of the timber kept in the premises of Wood based industry or to verify the records to be maintained.

10. Revocation of licence.— Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Licencing Officer, where he has reason to believe that a licensee is operating the Wood based industry, in contravention of the provisions of these rules or conditions of the licence or the licensee is indulging in activities prejudicial to the interest of forest conservation, may after giving the licensee an opportunity of being heard, cancel, suspend or revoke the licence granted under these rules.

11. Shifting. — (1) If the licensee desires to shift the Wood based industry from one place to another, within the territorial jurisdiction of the same Licencing Officer, then licensee shall apply to such Licencing Officer stating reasons thereof. The Licencing Officer may permit the shifting of the Wood based industry. If the request is refused, then the Licencing Officer shall record the reason for the refusal in writing.

(2) If the application is made to shift the unit outside the jurisdiction of the Licencing Officer, he shall forward the application along with all relevant papers and documents together with a report after proper enquiry on the good conduct or otherwise of the unit to the Licencing Officer in whose jurisdiction the unit is requested to be shifted. The Licencing Officer in whose jurisdiction the unit is proposed to be shifted shall deal with the matter in the same manner as mentioned under sub-rule (1).

(3) The Licencing Officer shall permit the shifting of the unit only after the approval of the Committee.

12. Appeal against the refusal or renewal to grant licence or revocation of licence.— (1) (a) Any person who has been refused, (i) to grant of licence under rule 4; or (ii) renewal of licence under rule 5; or (iii) transfer of licence under rule 6, or (iv) shifting of wood based industry under rule 11, may within a period of sixty days from the date of the receipt of such order, prefer an appeal to the Government.

(b) Any person whose licence has been revoked under rule 10, may within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such order, prefer as appeal to the Conservator of Forests or the Field Director of Tiger Reserve, as the case may be.

(2) On receipt of the appeal filed under sub-rule (1), the Government or the Conservator of Forest or the Field Director of Tiger Reserve, as the case may be, shall decide the same after giving the person concerned an opportunity of being heard.

(3) The decision of the Government or the Conservator of Forest or the Field Director of Tiger Reserve, as the case may be, on such appeal shall be final.

13. Penalty — Whoever contravenes any of the provisions of these rules, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to one month or with fine, which may extend to two hundred rupees or with both.

14. Saving — (1) Nothing contained in these rules shall apply to secondary units, which are involved in manufacturing of furniture, handicrafts, toys, etc., by re-sawing of sawn timber with small vertical Board saws/circular Band saws say up to 16” in size but without converting / sawing round timber, charcoal making units and firewood depots, which do not use or have the facility for sawing, converting, cutting and processing round timber.

(2) Nothing contained in these rules shall apply to match splints industries, where sawing and veneering of match splints species, either imported or exempted from the Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules, 1968, are a part of the matchstick or splint production

FORM - I
[See rules 4 (1) and 5(1)]
Application to establish Wood Based Industry
Application for renewal of licence



To

The Licencing Officer,

1. Name of the Applicant : _____
2. Father's Name : _____
3. Address : _____

4. Location and address of place : _____
where the industry is to be _____
established / licence renewed _____
5. Title and kind of industry : _____
(Saw mill / plywood / Veneer / other _____

6. Whether Machinery and power, etc. : _____
required for the industry to establish / _____
renew is available (yes or no)
7. If yes, Power connection Number : _____
8. Sales Tax Number : _____
9. In case of renewal, the number and : _____
date of original licence (copy of licence _____
is to be enclosed)
10. Proposed installed annual capacity of : _____
the industry
11. (i) Species to be used : _____
(ii) Quantity of timber to be used tones : _____
(iii) Source of timber : _____

Place :

Date :

(Signature of the Applicant)

FORM – II

[See rules 4 (2) and 5 (2)]

Photograph
of applicant

License to Establish / Renew Wood Based Industry

License is hereby granted / renewed to Shri / M/s. _____, son of _____, resident of _____ (hereinafter called “licensee”) to establish / renew Wood Based Industry located at (full Address) _____, valid up to _____, subject to the provisions contained in the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 (Tamil Nadu Act V of 1882), as amended from time to time and the rules made thereunder and on the following conditions, namely:-

1. The licensee shall renew the Wood Based Industry at (full Address) _____
2. The licensee shall not alter the location of the Wood Based Industry, without obtaining prior permission in writing of the Licensing officer concerned.
3. The licensee shall ensure that –
 - a) The site of the sawmill including the depot / yard for storage of round timber, sawn timber and waste wood is properly fenced / boundary wall erected with proper gates;
 - b) All the round timber sawn and wood waste are properly stacked according to the instructions that may be issued from time to time by the Licensing Officer;

Dated:

(Signature of the Licensing Officer)
(Seal)

FORM - III
(See rule 7)

Delivery Chalan No.

DELIVERY CHALAN

Name of Wood Based Industry with Address : _____
: _____
: _____

Licence No. : _____

(a) Date of receipt : _____

(b) The place from which received : _____

(c) Name and full address of the person
from whom received : _____

(d) Species of timber : _____

(e) Number of logs or pieces, size and
volume (in cubic meter) or weight (in
tonne) : _____

(f) Details of transit permit if any under
which the wood was transported to
Wood based Industry : _____

1. Permit Number and Date : _____

2. Issuing Authority : _____

(g) Quantity obtained after conversion or
otherwise —

1. Scantling : _____

2. Planks : _____

3. Reapers, etc : _____

(h) Quantity delivered under this chalan : _____

(i) Destination : _____

(j) Remarks : _____

Signature of Consignee with Date

Signature of Licensee
Stamp of Wood based industry with date

FORM - IV
(See rule 8)

Record of receipt and disposal of timber

1. **Record of receipt of timber** :
- (a) Date of receipt :
- (b) The place from which received :
- (c) Name and full address of the person from whom received :
- (d) Species of timber :
- (e) Number of logs or pieces, size and volume (in cubic meter) or weight (in tonnes) :
- (f) Details of transit permit if any under which the wood was transported—
 1. Permit Number and Date :
 2. Issuing Authority :
- (g) Remarks :
2. **Record of disposal of timber/ manufactured goods—**
- (a) Date of sale :
- (b) Date of removal of timber / manufactured goods from depot :
- (c) Name and full address of person to whom sold or handed over :
- (d) Delivery chalan No. and Date :
- (e) Quantity :
(Number / size and volume (in cubic metre) or weight (in tonnes) as the case may be)
- (f) Remarks :

ANNEXURE

Assessment of Timber Requirement

[See rule 3-C (2)]

The Indian Plywood Industry Research and training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore an autonomous body under the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has assessed the timber requirement per unit for peeling length of 4 feet and 8 feet size in the plywood / veneer units as 5 cu. mt. and 11 cu. mt. respectively per day on an average of 8 working hours per day. By assuming that the peeling units work for 8 hours per day on an average for 300 days in a year, the normal timber requirement of the peeling length of 4 feet size in veneer units is 1500 cu. mt. The total timber requirement for the stand-alone veneer units may be assessed by calculating the equivalent number of 4 feet length machines and by taking its normal installed capacity as 1500 cu. mt. per annum.

The timber requirement of a plywood unit may be taken as 'nil' on the ground that the round timber is used as timber in the veneer units only and that the plywood units are the secondary users which use the veneer as the raw material produced by the veneer units. The plywood units use presses of various sizes such as 8x4x6, 8x4x12, 8x4x15, 4x4x7, 4x4x10 A, 8x4x10 capacity press can produce upto 10 plywood pieces of 8'x4' size per hour whereas a 8x4x15 capacity press can produce upto 15 plywood pieces of 8'x4' size per hour and so on. The normative installed capacity of the plywood units will accordingly depend upon the number and the type of presses. This number and type of presses installed in each of the plywood unit may be assessed and thereafter equivalent number or presses of 8x4x10 capacity may be calculated. The normative annual timber requirement for a integrated plywood unit having a 8x4x10 capacity press may be taken as 2000 cu. mt. per annum, and accordingly the total requirement of timber for the plywood units should be calculated.

Note:

The Principal Rules. i.e., Tamil Nadu Regulation of Wood Based Industries Rules, 2010 was notified in Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 156, Environment and Forests (FR-13) Department, dated 21st October 2010 (*Published in Part III—Section 1(a) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extraordinary dated 21st October 2010*) and subsequently amended by following Government Orders.

- (1) Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 79, Environment and Forests (FR-13) Department, dated 23rd July 2015 (*Published in page 32; Part III—Section 1(a) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated 12th Aug 2015*)
- (2) Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 16, Environment and Forests (FR-13) Department, dated 7th February 2020 (*Published in pages 18 – 21; Part III—Section 1(a) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette dated 4th March 2020*)
