

Dated Lahore, the 18.03.2013

NOTIFICATION

No. SOFT(Ext)IV-2/99-V. In exercise of the powers conferred under section 76 of the Punjab Forest Act 1927 (XVI of 1927), Governor of the Punjab is pleased to make the following rules:

1. **Short title and commencement.**—(1) These rules may be cited as the Establishment of Sawpits, Sawmill, Charcoal Kiln, Timber or Firewood Depot Rules 2013.
(2) They shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions.**—(1) In these rules:
 - (a) "Act" means the Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927);
 - (b) "depot" means any building or place where timber, firewood or charcoal is brought and stored for sale and includes the kilns made for burning charcoal for sale and brick-kilns in which firewood or charcoal is used;
 - (c) "timber" includes wood (firewood, brushwood, twig, sawdust, chips), whether obtained by felling of a tree or plant or without it;
 - (d) "firewood" includes any kind of wood used for burning of fire, but does not include shrubs, lopping of trees (not exceeding six inches in girth) and the stumps of trees;
 - (e) "charcoal kiln" means any premises where any process is carried out for conversion of timber or firewood into charcoal;
 - (f) "sawpit or sawmill" means any device used for cutting, conversion of trees, timber and firewood either propelled manually or mechanically and includes all kind of circular saws, band saws, pitsaws and multiple saws etc; and
 - (g) "Forest Officer" as defined in the Act shall include any person appointed by Government as Forest Officer.
3. **Mandatory registration.**—(1) A person shall not establish or maintain a depot, sawpit, sawmill, charcoal kiln within 5 miles (eight kilometers) from the boundary of the forest unless it has been registered under these rules.
 - (2) Any person wishing to establish or maintain a depot, sawpit, sawmill and charcoal kiln shall register the same by submitting an application, a copy of his computerized national identity card and proof of deposit of fifty thousand rupees in the treasury as security, in the office of the Forest Division in which the depot, sawpit, sawmill and charcoal kiln is to be situated.
 - (3) A person registering a depot, sawpit, sawmill and charcoal kiln shall maintain such details in regard to the source from which timber or firewood or charcoal is obtained.
 - (4) The owner of an existing depot, sawpit, sawmill or charcoal kiln shall get registration under these rules within a period of sixty days from the date of commencement of these rules.

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4. Refusal to register and security.—(1) The Divisional Forest Officer may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, refuse to register any depot, sawpit, sawmill and charcoal kiln.

(2) The Divisional Forest Officer, in granting an application for registration under these rules, shall demand security of fifty thousand rupees from the applicant to ensure that timber, firewood or charcoal is not brought from reserved, protected, un-classed forests, wasteland or a rangeland forest except in accordance with law.

(3) The Divisional Forest Officer may forfeit this security in whole or in part for breach of any condition of registration.

5. Prohibition.—(1) The Divisional Forest Officer shall not allow or register a depot, sawpit, sawmill or charcoal kiln within five miles (eight kilometer) radius from boundary of a reserved, protected or un-classed, wasteland or a rangeland forest and cutting, conversion, altering and concealing of timber or firewood shall be strictly prohibited in the area.

(2) The Divisional Forest Officer may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, exempt any depot from the operation of this rule especially in case of linear plantations.

6. Registers.—(1) The owner or person incharge of a depot, sawpit, sawmill and charcoal kiln shall maintain the following registers:

(a) Register of receipt of timber, firewood or charcoal showing:

- (i) permit No. and date of receipt;
- (ii) name and address of person from whom received;
- (iii) species; and
- (iv) quantity (Cft. or maundage)

(b) Register of sale of timber, firewood or charcoal showing:

- (i) date of sale;
- (ii) name and address of person to whom sold;
- (iii) species; and

(iv) quantity of sawn wood, firewood or charcoal or quantity of finished goods like articles of furniture and joinery.

(2) The Divisional Forest Officer may register a Small sized sawmill (upto one foot) for making articles of furniture and joinery.

(3) An owner or person incharge of a small sized sawmill registered under sub-rule (2), shall not establish firewood depot at the site of sawmill.

(4) The owner or person incharge of a sawmill, timber or firewood depot or a charcoal kiln or a machinery for making articles of furniture and joinery, shall not operate sawmill, depot, charcoal kiln or the machinery after the sunset and before the sunrise.

(5) Every owner or person incharge of a depot, sawpit, sawmill and charcoal kiln shall provide the registers, prescribed under sub-rule (1) to a Forest Officer whenever the Forest Officer wants to scrutinize the registers.

7. Power of Forest Officer.—(1) A Forest Officer authorized by Government, under Section 64(1) of the Act, in this behalf may arrest any person and seize the timber, firewood, sawmill, and charcoal in respect of which the offence has been committed.

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(2) The Forest Officer making an arrest under sub-rule (1) shall release the arrested person after obtaining a bond to appear before the Magistrate.

(3) The Forest Officer may issue notices to an owner of a depot, sawpit, sawmill or charcoal kiln, if the depot, sawpit, sawmill or charcoal kiln is situated within five miles (eight kilometers) from the boundary of the forest and the owner is liable to remove the same, unless registered and operated under these rules.

BY ORDERS OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB

(Dr. Aamer Ahmed)
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
FW&F DEPARTMENT

NO. & DATE EVEN

A copy is forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. Secretary to Governor, Punjab.
2. Secretary to Chief Minister, Punjab.
3. All Administrative Secretaries in Punjab.
4. P.S. to Chief Secretary, Punjab.
5. All Commissioners in Punjab.
6. All District Coordination Officers in Punjab.
7. All Chief Conservators of Forests, in Punjab.
8. All Conservators of Forests, in Punjab.
9. All Divisional Forest Officers in Punjab.
10. All District Officers (Forest) in Punjab.
11. The Superintendent, Government Printing Press Lahore for publication in the next issue of Provincial Gazette.


SECTION OFFICER (FOREST)

CC:

- P.S to Secretary FW&F Department.
- P.A. to Additional Secretary, FW&F Department.
- P.A. to DS(A), DS(P) & Director B&A (Forest), FW&F Department

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