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GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
FORESTRY, WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
DEPARTMENT
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 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 Punjab Forest Transit Rules 2013.

(2) They shall come into force at once

2. Definitions.-In these rules:

(a) "Act" means the Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927);

(b) "check-post" means any of the places determined and notified by the Conservator of Forests for checking of major or minor forest produce such as timber, wood (firewood, charcoal, brushwood, twigs, sawdust, chips, bark etc.) while in transit;

(c) "Conservator of Forests" means a forest officer incharge of the forest circle;

(d) "Divisional Forest Officer" means a forest officer incharge of a forest division;

(e) "firewood" includes any tree when it has fallen or had been felled or its part whose length is less than five feet and girth at thick end is under two feet and charcoal, brushwood, twigs, sawdust, chips, bark whether found in, or brought from, a forest or otherwise; and

(f) "timber" includes any tree when it has fallen or had been felled or its part whose length is five feet or more and girth at thick end is two feet or more, whether cut up or converted into sleeper, planks, scants or fashioned or hollowed out for any purpose or not, and stumps, bamboos, canes, whether found in, or brought from, a forest or otherwise.

3. "Check-post"-(1) The Conservator of Forests, in consultation with the District Coordination Officer and District Police Officer, shall notify and establish as many check-posts and on such sites as deemed necessary.

(2) The Conservator of Forests may at any time, abolish a check-post after recording reasons in writing.

(3) The Conservator shall supply copies of his orders under this rule to the District Coordination Officer and District Police Officer in addition to others concerned.

(4) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officer, may by notification, constitute a mobile squad for the enforcement of these rules.

(5) A person shall not transport forest produce to or out of a forest division without a valid transit permit and shall route the transportation of the forest produce through at least one of the check posts.

(6) The transport of forest produce without passing one of the prescribed check-posts shall be prohibited.

(7) unless permitted by the Divisional Forest Officer in any case, no forest produce shall pass a forest check-post between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

4. Transit Permit - No forest produce shall be imported into or exported from any forest division or transported through any part of it unless covered and accompanied by a valid transit pass issued by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

(2) The transit permit shall be [produced at the check post or as the case may be, to the mobile squad.

(3) The transit Permit shall be in the form prescribed by the Conservator and shall include a detachable coupon.

(4) The transit Permit shall specify the kind and quantity of such forest produce, the mark or marks it bears (if any), the owner or person in charge of it, the place in which it has been cut or prepared, its destination and name of the check-post to which such material shall be taken for examination, the date and place of issue of the transit pass and the period for which it is valid.

(5) The Divisional Forest Officer may refuse to issue a transit pass if he has reason to believe that the forest produce has not been legally acquired by the applicant.

(6) In the case of forest produce obtained from the territory outside the forest division, the Divisional Forest Officer may, before issuing a transit permit, require the production of a genuine transit permit issued by the Divisional Forest Officer of the other forest division or proof that the said material or forest produce has been legally acquired.

5. Hammer-mark and mark of identity.-(1) Unless exempted by the Conservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officer, no timber shall be imported into any forest division, and no timber shall be moved within the limits of the forest division, unless it bears hammer mark as follows:

- (a) in the case of timber belonging to the other Government Departments or agencies, the legible property mark of such Department or agency;
- (b) in the case of timber sold by the Forest Department, the sale-hammer mark; and
- (c) in the case of timber obtained from other source, the person intended to transport it, shall apply to the Divisional Forest

Officer who either may cause it to be marked with a hammer-mark prescribed by the Government for that purpose or may exempt it from such marking.

6. Exemption:- (1) The provisions of rule 5 shall not apply to timber fashioned into articles of furniture, carts, carriages, agriculture or other implements.

(2) The Conservator of Forests or the Divisional Forest Officer may exempt, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, a forest produce any specified class, from the operation of any of these rules, and may withdraw such exemption in the public interest.

7. Procedure to be followed by checking staff.-(1) Any person incharge of forest produce shall produce transit permit for the inspection by the Forest Officer incharge of the check-post or mobile squad.

(2) If the Forest Officer incharge of a check-post or checking mobile squad finds that the forest produce is being transported in accordance with the transit permit, he shall allow it to be transported further.

(3) If the whole quantity mentioned in the transit permit, reaches the check-post in one consignment, the forest officer or incharge of the post shall retain the transit permit and cancel it, returning the attached coupon duly filled in, to the person incharge

(4) If the whole quantity mentioned in the transit permit does not reach the check-post in one consignment only, the forest officer incharge of the check-post shall, on the arrival of each consignment, other than the last, note on the back of the transit permit the quantity imported, returning the transit permit to be presented again by the person incharge of the following consignments and on the arrival of the final consignment, the forest officer incharge of the check post shall retain the transit permit and cancel it, returning the receipt duly filled in to the person incharge.

(5) Notes of quantities entered on the back of the transit permit and of cancellation shall be signed and dated by the Forest Officer incharge of the check-post.

(6) The Forest Officer incharge of check-post shall maintain the record of all the transit permits and consignments in the registers, issued by the Divisional Forest Officers, on the pattern prescribed by the Government.

(7) If the Forest Officer incharge of the check-post or mobile squad finds that the forest produce is not being imported or transported in accordance with these rules or in accordance with the transit permit, he shall forbid such import or transportation and shall seize such produce together with all tools, boats, vehicles, carts or cattle or animals used for the import or transportation and shall take action under the Act and shall report the matter, without any delay, to his superior officer for orders.

(8) Any Forest Officer or police officer may stop and examine any forest produce, in transit in respect of which there is reason to believe that any money is payable to the Government on account of the price of the forest produce or on account of any duty, fee, royalty or charge due on the forest

produce or when it is desirable under the Act or to see the mark and in order to compare it with the transit permit.

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.

[Signature]
o/c 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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