

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.

**Dated: September, 2023**

To

The Addl. Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries (Forests),  
All States/ Union Territory Administrations.

**Sub: Maintenance of Safety Zone along the inner boundary of mining lease; review of guidelines given under para 7.8 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vis-à-vis applicability of raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of safety zone area – reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and this Ministry's guidelines on maintenance of safety zone along the inner boundary of a mining leases issued from time to time. In this connection, it is to inform that matter has been considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. Minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee may be perused at <https://parivesh.nic.in>. The Committee observed that as per the provisions of the recent guidelines in vogue, the safety zone is part of mining lease and is accordingly, included in the area proposed for diversion of forest land, located in the mining lease, under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority in the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby issues the following guidelines with regards to the maintenance of safety zone in a mining lease:

- i. Provisions of the raising compensatory afforestation, as applicable in the entire forest area proposed for diversion, will be applicable in lieu of forest land located in the safety zone as well.
- ii. The State Government and the Union territory Administration shall ensure provision of safety zone is complied with as per Ministry's guidelines issued time to time and in cases where no proposal is submitted for approval under the FCA in respect of forest land located in safety zone, invocation of penal provisions of the FCA shall be ensured.
- iii. The previous guidelines issued with regards to safety zone except those related to payment of NPV and seeking approval of FC in already granted mines as applicable, will cease to apply henceforth.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully

**(Charan Jeet Singh)**  
Scientist 'D'

**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF, All States/ Union Territories Administration.

I/53756/2023

2. The Regional Officer, All Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, All States/ Union territories Administration.
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
5. Guard file