

Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi
Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi

**Periodic Surveillance of Recognized Environmental Laboratories:
Procedure and Modalities**

The revised Guidelines for Recognition of Environmental Laboratories under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide Para mentioned at Page No. 45 stipulates that Periodic Surveillance (atleast every alternative year) of recognized environmental laboratory under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 will be undertaken by Central Government / Central Pollution Control Board to assess the proper functioning, systematic operation and reliability of data generated at the laboratory. However, definitive procedure and modalities for periodic surveillance were not elaborated in the guidelines. The Central Govt. devised following definitive procedure and modalities for periodic surveillance of recognized laboratories:

- Surveillance of recognized laboratories to be undertaken preferably, while undertaking joint inspection of other laboratories at the place of visit for economical reasons.
- Surveillance team should preferably comprise two members representing any one of the following:
 - (a) Ministry of Environment & Forests Headquarters / MoEF Regional Office representative and State Pollution Control Board representative (For Private sector laboratories)
 - (b) Central Pollution Control Board HQs / CPCB Zonal Office representative and State Pollution Control Board representative (For Govt. sector laboratories).
- Surveillance of the laboratory should be undertaken without prior intimation to the concerned laboratory however, information about the surveillance visit may be given 24 hrs prior to the visit to ensure availability of concerned officials at the laboratory.
- During surveillance visit the observations should be recorded in surveillance Proforma (Appendix-A) and it should be duly signed by the surveillance team representatives.
- Deviation / discrepancies observed during surveillance visit should be appropriately recorded in the Surveillance Proforma. If space is insufficient, detailed discrepancies / observations may be recorded on plain paper alongwith supporting document and attached with the surveillance report.

Deviation / Discrepancies at Recognized Laboratories:

- The Central Government / Central Pollution Control Board reserve its right to issue warning / show cause notice to the laboratory in case of gross deviation / discrepancies reported during the surveillance visit.

- The Central Government / Central Pollution Control Board, if not convinced with the justification / reply of the laboratory against the warning / show cause notice issued in this context, reserve its right to suspend the recognition of the laboratory for a period as decided.
- The Central Govt. reserves its right to derecognize or revoke the recognition of any laboratory at any time in public interest, if it is deemed necessary by the Central Govt. / CPCB. The recognition will also be withdrawn / revoked in following cases in addition to the paras mentioned at page no. 45 of Revised Guidelines for Recognition of Environmental Laboratories under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:
 - (i) Gross negligence / misappropriation / misutilization / malpractice of recognition granted to the laboratory under the E (P) Act, 1986, as found at any time / during the surveillance visit by Central Govt. / CPCB / SPCB.
 - (ii) Complaints with evidence received against the laboratory regarding analytical malpractices.
 - (iii) The laboratory violates the accepted terms & conditions for recognition of environmental laboratory (Annexure-III and IV of the guidelines).
 - (iv) The laboratory does not comply with the Rules & Regulations notified under the Act.
 - (v) Shifting of the laboratory from the address at which it was recognized without taking prior approval of Central Govt. / CPCB.
 - (vi) (a) If any / all the notified Govt. Analysts resign / leave the services of the laboratory and this fact is not reported by the laboratory to Central Govt. / CPCB;
(b) The analytical reports are being signed by a non-govt. approved analyst.
 - (vii) Routine laboratory operation posing health hazards to public residing in near vicinity and there has been complaint against the laboratory in this regard.
 - (viii) The laboratory changed its name without prior approval from MoEF / CPCB.
 - (ix) Non-reply by the laboratory or vague reply by the laboratory to the warning / show cause notice issued by the Central Govt. / CPCB.

The above Procedure / Modalities for Surveillance of recognized laboratories will be posted on MoEF website (*moef.nic.in*) & CPCB website (*cpcb.nic.in*) for information of recognized laboratories as well as for public awareness.