



NOTIFICATION

Peshawar Dated the 25/07/2025

No. SO(ENVT)/CCFE&WD/1-8/EPC-2025: In exercise of powers conferred under Clause xxii of Section 7 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act, 2014, (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Act No. XXX of 2022), the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Council (EPC) in its 3rd Meeting held on 13.05.2025 has been pleased to approve the following guidelines for General Environmental Approval (GEA);

GUIDELINES FOR BLOCK FACTORIES

1. Introduction:

A block making plant is involved in the manufacture of concrete blocks. This guideline applies for block making plant/manufacturing unit/factory.

2. The basic processes comprise:-

- a. Mixing the right proportions of cement, water and aggregates, (rock sand and gravel).
- b. Conveying the mixed aggregates into a block making machine, where they are compressed and molded to give the blocks in the desired shape.
- c. Curing of the blocks for a reasonable period of time to gain the desired strength and durability. The curing process is designed primarily to keep the concrete block moist by controlling the loss of moisture normally by the use of water sprayers or accelerated curing can also be carried out by the use of steam in curing chambers.

3. The block making plant layout usually comprises the:- Block production and curing platform

- Batching plant
- Feeding cement silos
- Raw material storage area

4. The construction and operation of a block making plant is associated with several environmental issues, namely:-

- I. Dust and air emissions
- II. Noise
- III. Wastewater and storm water run-off
- IV. Solid wastes
- V. Waste Oil, hydrocarbon and oil spills from vehicles and equipment
- VI. Energy and water consumption

i. Site selection:

Site selection plays very important role to reduce the impact of the project on the environment.

- a. The site should be located in industrial areas or at a suitable site at least 200 m away from



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the nearest house/residential areas.

- b. The existing development context of the site should be compatible with the activity.
- c. At the design stage of new block making plants, consideration should be given to the site lay-out, with a view to avoiding disturbances to the surrounding environment. In particular, attention should be paid to the location of entrances, exits, car parks, access roads and amenities.
- d. The site should not be located within any Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) or other sites such as wetland, steep slope and in areas that are likely to be affected by hazards such as inland flooding and landslide.
- e. On-site wastewater disposal facility such as septic tanks and absorption pits shall be located not less than 30 m from any water course/water body.
- f. Existing natural drains and watercourses on or in the vicinity of the site shall not be tampered with.

ii. Dust and air emission

- a. The main sources of dust nuisances are:-
 - fugitive dust from cement storage silo
 - Dust from vehicular movement within the premises
- b. Air emissions from operation of the equipment and exhaust of vehicles.
Necessary abatement measures should be taken such that all emissions from the plant comply with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environment Quality Standards.

Mitigating measures include:-

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- Fitting the silo with dust-restraining bag filters
- Sprinkling of the premises with water, preferably harvested rain water
- The premises and access roads should be kept clean and free of dust at all times.

III. Noise abatement

Noise from the block making plant arises from:-

- a. Use of mechanical equipment and electric motors (compressor, vibrator, hammer)
- b. Compaction / compression of cement mortar within the block molds in the block laying machine

As such, necessary precautions shall be taken to ensure noise emitted from the plant is within permissible limits as per the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Quality standards

Mitigating measures include:-

- All operations should be carried out during day Time/normal working hours (9:00 Am to 4:00 Pm)
- . Noise generating equipment should be provided with appropriate noise attenuating materials/ structures.
- Proper and regular maintenance of equipment and use of exhaust silencers

Noise monitoring using calibrated noise meter should be carried out on a regular basis.



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IV. Wastewater management

Wastewater generated on-site is of both domestic and industrial nature.

- a. Domestic wastewater is generated by staff employed at the plant
- b. Industrial wastewater comprises effluents from cleaning of equipment and sprinkling of water for dust abatement

Mitigating measures include:-

- Provision of appropriate domestic wastewater treatment (Septic Tank and Socket Pit) and disposal facility.
- Installation of grease traps or oil water separators for removal of floatable solids from water.
- Wash water should be channeled into a sedimentation tank. The effluent from the sedimentation tank should be treated and reused for dust abatement and the settled solids be reused.

V. Solid wastes

Solid wastes are mainly domestic wastes generated by the staff as well as cracked/ broken blocks.

Mitigating measures include:-

- Domestic solid wastes to be regularly collected in bins and disposed of to the TMA dumping Site
- No waste of any type to be disposed of in any watercourse including drains, canals and the surrounding environment.
- The cracked/ broken blocks to be reused for backfilling purposes.

VI. Waste Oil, hydrocarbon and oil spills from vehicles and equipment

Where fuelling is proposed on site, a dedicated platform/ bay must be provided. Necessary measures need to be taken to prevent any hydrocarbon and oil spill at the fuelling bay or from storage tanks.

Mitigating measures include:-

- Waste oil shall be collected and disposed of as per the provisions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Environmental Protection Act 2014 (Collection, Storage, Treatment, Use and Disposal of Waste Oil).
- Proper disposal of waste oil through approved oil recycling companies
- Hazardous wastes shall be collected and disposed as per the provisions of the Kp EPA 2014 (Standards for hazardous wastes).
- Necessary bounded wall to be provided around any fuel storage tank
- Contingency plans should be developed for any accidental spillage of petroleum products or any other unforeseen circumstances.



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VII. Other mitigating measures

- Necessary precautions should be taken to avoid disturbance to the neighborhood by way of mud or traffic during construction and operation phase.
- Provision to be made for adequate parking, loading and unloading facilities.
- Safe storage of materials on site .
- Provision for a proper drainage scheme for evacuation of stormwater to avoid any risks of flooding.

VIII. Eco-friendly Measures and Sustainability

Best environment friendly practices and initiatives need to be adopted such as rain water harvesting for washing of premises, energy efficient appliances and energy-saving devices (LED lamps); sensor lights

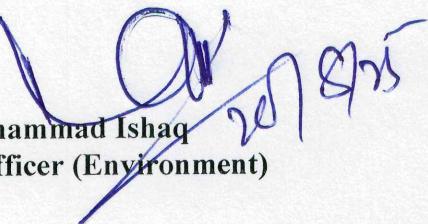
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**Secretary to Govt. of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Climate Change, Forestry, Environment & Wildlife
Department**

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Copy for information to:

1. All members of Environmental Protection Council (EPC) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
2. PS to Secretary Climate Change, Forestry, Environment & Wildlife Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa


Muhammad Ishaq
Section Officer (Environment)