



ཀྲུལ་ཡོངས་མཐའ་འཁོར་གནས་སྤངས་ལྷན་ཚོགས།
དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།
National Environment Commission
Royal Government of Bhutan



NECS/PPS/2020/92

January 15, 2020

To,

Refer distribution list below

Subject: Classification of projects/ categorization of projects into color-coded categories

Dasho/Sir/Madam,

The National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS) would like to thank all Competent Authorities (CAs) for your efforts in the environmental assessment process. With the help of the CAs, NECS is able to provide efficient and timely public services. In the interest of enhancing service delivery, NECS would like to inform all CAs that the activities are now classified into color-coded project categories as follows:

1. **Green category:** Projects listed under the green category are exempted from requiring Environmental Clearance (EC);
2. **Blue category:** Projects listed under the blue category shall be assessed at Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) level by designated Competent Authority or NECS as applicable.
3. **Red category:** Projects listed under the red category will require to undergo Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. The activities under red list shall be reviewed by the NECS. All CAs are requested to screen these projects for completeness prior to forwarding it to the Secretariat for assessment.

A list of activities under each category are attached herewith for kind reference and necessary action. This categorization shall supersede the list provided under the 'List of Activities that the Competent Authorities shall Screen and Issue Environmental Clearance and List of activities not requiring Environmental Clearance 2016'. In case of activities not in any of the aforementioned categories, the Secretariat shall review and assess the application and relevant documents. The list of projects under each category is subject to periodical review and will be updated from time to time.

Should CAs have any reservations, kindly consult the Environmental Assessment & Compliance Division (EACD), NECS prior to forwarding or making decisions on EC.

This is issued as per the endorsement of the 50th National Environment Commission Meeting held on December 23, 2019 for strict compliance with immediate effect.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

(Sonam P. Wangdi)
SECRETARY

Distribution list:

1. Hon'ble Chair, National Environment Commission for kind information
2. Hon'ble Members of the National Environment Commission for kind information
3. Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Works and Human Settlements, Thimphu for kind information
4. Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Health, Thimphu for kind information
5. Director General, Department of Industry, MoEA, Thimphu for kind information
6. Director General, Department of Geology and Mines, MoEA, Thimphu for kind information
7. Director General, Department of Livestock, MoAF, Thimphu for kind information
8. Chairman, Dzongkhag Environment Committee, 20 Dzongkhags for kind information
9. Dasho Thrompon, 4 Thromdes for kind information
10. Director, Department of Forests and Park Services, MoAF, Thimphu for kind information
11. Director, Department of Agriculture, MoAF, Thimphu for kind information

Project Categorization (Green, Blue and Red list)

Green list: Projects exempted from requiring Environmental Clearance

Sl.no	Activity
1.	Oil mill, Flour mill, Rice mill (cottage and small scale)
2.	Setting up of Dry Cleaning Services
3.	Consultancy firms
4.	Cinemas not involving land use changes
5.	Barber shops
6.	Communication services (telephone and TV cable services)
7.	Umbrella repairs
8.	Nursery
9.	Carpet production without dyes
10.	Restaurants
11.	Arts and handicrafts (cottage and small scale)
12.	Electronic/ electrical repair services
13.	Tailoring
14.	Candle production(cottage and small scale)
15.	Potato chips production (cottage and small scale)
16.	Incense production
17.	Jari production(cottage and small scale)
18.	Noodle production (cottage and small scale)
19.	Audio visuals services (not involving land use change)
20.	Cobbling

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21.	Training institute not involving land use changes
22.	Desktop publishing
23.	Photo studio without developing and printing facilities
24.	Indoor games (not involving construction)
25.	Cycle repairs
26.	Beauty parlors
27.	Quilt makers
28.	Clearing and forwarding agents
29.	Tour and travel services
30.	Discotheques
31.	Textile production without dyes
32.	Manufacture of organic fertilizers
33.	Road resurfacing
34.	Road maintenance
35.	Bioengineering
36.	Bridge maintenance not involving land use changes
37.	Road improvement (base course/black topping)
38.	Construction of residential houses
39.	Goods and passenger transport
40.	Smithery works
41.	Laundry services
42.	Tyre and tube repair services
43.	Day care centre for children
44.	Construction of mule track
45.	Construction of archery ground/range
46.	Construction of crematorium

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47.	Setting up of bakery/confectioneries (small and cottage scale)
48.	Establishment of digital photo studio (small and cottage scale)
49.	Construction of labour camps
50.	Construction of small scale water supply for domestic use(Less than 10,000L/day)
51.	Mitigation work/Permanent work(retaining wall, breast wall, causeway)
52.	Allocation of forest produce to rural communities outside FMU
53.	Sanitation (dead trees/diseased trees etc.)operation outside and inside FMU
54.	Activities related to agriculture research and development
55.	Establishment of cardamom plantation and other commercial plantations (mushroom, hazelnut, coffee, potato, ginger, soyabeans, dallay, sunflower, bamboo, kiwi, castor oil, orchid, traditional medicine, berry) not involving using GMOs and LMOs (small and cottage sized)
56.	Assembling of wood, metal, glass-based products and footwear not involving tanning and usage of fabrics involving dyeing (small and cottage sized provided that the activity is as per the approved Local Area Plan/ Industrial Estate/ Special Economic Zone with Environmental Clearance)
57.	Manufacturing of paper egg tray, feed mills, toilet paper/ paper napkins (small and cottage size provided the activity is as per the approved Local Area Plan/Industrial Estate/ Special Economic zone with Environmental Clearance)
58.	Construction and operation of hotels within the demarcated Thromde boundary
59.	Establishment of weigh Bridge
60.	Establishment of Auction yards/storage yard for forest and agricultural produce
61.	Setting up of craft services based on indigenous and local materials (small and cottage)
62.	Establishment of tattoo parlor
63.	Establishment of skin cosmetics
64.	Establishment of utilities and service lines within approved Local Area Plan with Environmental Clearance

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65.	Setting up of vegetable market sheds
66.	Development of parking space
67.	Establishment of community forestry and private forestry harvesting
68.	Afforestation and reforestation works
69.	Management and collection of non-wood forest produce
70.	Interior design services (not involving land use changes)
71.	Vehicle towing and recovery services (not involving land use changes)
72.	Repair and maintenance of electric transformers (not involving land use changes)
73.	Repair and maintenance of optic fibers (not involving land use changes)
74.	Overseas employment agency (not involving land use changes)
75.	Provision of IT services (IT office solution for material management, fixed Assets, human resources, payroll, financial and accountancy- not involving land use changes)
76.	Organic farming
77.	Weight loss, yoga, health club, swimming pool, gymnasias, sports clubs and fitness centre(not involving land use changes)
78.	Spa, massage parlor, hot stone bath centre(not involving land use changes)
79.	Film distribution
80.	Auctioning of goods and property (not involving land use changes)
81.	Labour recruitment agency
82.	Advertisement and marketing services
83.	Courier services
84.	Real estate services not involving construction
85.	Asset brokerage
86.	Event management

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87.	Delivery services
88.	Security services
89.	Hiring and rental services
90.	Building repair and maintenance services (plumbing, cleaning, electrical, mason, carpentry, painting, tank cleaning etc.)
91.	Education and tutorial services not involving land use changes
92.	Floriculture and horticulture (cottage and small scale)
93.	Home processed food (cottage)
94.	Translation/interpretation services/legal services
95.	Tourism services (rafting and kayaking, rock climbing, boating, camping etc) not involving land use change
96.	Hostel, guest houses and service apartments not involving land use change
97.	Air line Services
98.	Upholstery
99.	Monsoon Damage Restoration works
100.	Establishment and operation of biogas facility and solar power (household level)
101.	Waste management services (collection)
102.	Replacement of old machine/equipment with similar specifications in the existing facility
103.	Activities proposed within established startup centers
104.	Book binding
105.	Manufacturing of herbal tea, pan masala unit, betel nut, ice cream manufacturing, paper disposal utensils, paper souvenir, and traditional handmade paper (cottage and small scale provided that the activity is as per the approved Local Area Plan/ Industrial Estate/ Special Economic Zone with Environmental Clearance)
106.	Tea processing without boiler
107.	Blending and packaging of tea
108.	Production of socks involving only stitching and sewing works
109.	ORC (Outreach clinic centers)

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110.	Engraving and polishing of wood and stones (Cottage and small scale)
111.	Construction of lhakhang/chorten and other religious monuments
112.	Setting up of Screening Plant (separation of sand and stones/boulders)
113.	Beekeeping
114.	Livestock Activities such as setting up of fisheries, pasture development and dog pound (cottage and small), setting up of Dairy Farms (up to semi commercial), poultry farms (subsistence) and piggery (subsistence)
115.	Assembling of CGI/cardboard/cardboard box sheets (cutting and sizing)
116.	Oxygen and nitrogen gas plants (using atmospheric air)
117.	Cold storage and ice making
118.	Power looms/hand looms without dyeing and bleaching
119.	Chalk making (sun-drying/ using electrical oven)
120.	Fountain pen manufacturing by assembling only
121.	Processing of soap, detergent, sanitary napkins, phenol and other household cleaning agents using ready-made raw materials (cottage and small scale)
122.	Establishment and operation of Sawmill Sawdust Briquetting Plant
123.	Construction of urban roads and urban drainage within approved LAP with EC
124.	Wooden/steel furniture units including paneling and wood joineries
125.	Tooth pick manufacturing unit
126.	Construction of Trails

NOTE: The above exempted activities must obtain approvals/ clearances/ development consent from concerned agencies as required under relevant existing legislations

Blue list: Projects subjected to Initial Environment Examination

Sl.no	Activity	Competent Authorities
1.	Food processing including fruits and vegetable processing	
2.	Manufacturing of dairy products (cottage and small	Department of Industry

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	scale)	
3.	Pulses processing	
4.	Non-alcoholic beverages	
5.	Mineral water plants	
6.	Distillery	
7.	Establishment of Micro Brewery	Department of Industry (cottage and small scale)
8.	Refining of vegetable oils	
9.	Pharmaceuticals involving mixing and packaging	
10.	Packaging/blending/mixing of lubricant oil	
11.	Sugar manufacturing	
12.	Foam manufacturing	
13.	Hollow blocks manufacturing	Department of Industry
14.	Manufacturing of particle board	
15.	Plyboard manufacturing	
16.	Setting up and operation of stone crushing unit (Cottage and small)	DEC/Thromde depending on the location of the activity
17.	Coal washeries	
18.	Marble plants (cutting, sizing, and polishing)	
19.	Plastic and polymer industry	
20.	Mineral stockyards	
21.	Manufacturing of tea (with boiler)	
22.	Lime manufacturing	
23.	Manufacturing of glass items from sheet glass	
24.	Manufacturing of glass fiber resin concrete products	
25.	Establishment/setting up of Printing Press	Department of Industry
26.	Setting up of Bakery/ Confectionaries (medium and large scale)	Department of Industry
27.	Oil mill, Flour mill, Rice mill (medium and large scale)	Department of Industry

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28.	Establishment of Digital Photo Studio (medium and large scale)	Department of Industry
29.	Establishment of LPG refill/fire extinguisher refill	
30.	Carpet and textile production using dyes	Department of Industry
31.	Making of paper and cardboard Packaging Products	Department of Industry (cottage and small scale)
32.	Establishment and operation of Fuel Depot /Fuel Station	Department of Industry
33.	Production of socks/stockings	
34.	Assembling glass-based products and footwear not involving tanning and usage of fabrics involving dyeing (all scale proposed outside the approved Local Area Plan/ Industrial Estate/ Special Economic Zone with Environmental Clearance and medium and large scale provided that the activity is as per the approved Local Area Plan/ Industrial Estate/ Special Economic Zone with Environmental Clearance)	
35.	Manufacturing of paper egg tray, feed mills, toilet paper/tissue paper/paper, napkins, cardboard (all scale proposed outside the approved Local Area Plan/ Industrial Estate/ Special Economic Zone with Environmental Clearance and medium and large scale provided that the activity is as per the approved Local Area Plan/ Industrial Estate/ Special Economic Zone with Environmental	

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	Clearance)	
36.	Processing of soap, detergent, phenol and other household cleaning agents using ready-made raw materials (medium and large scale)	
37.	Processing of sanitary napkins using ready-made raw materials (medium and large scale)	
38.	Mineral Exploration for verifying mineral deposits	Department of Geology and Mines
39.	Operation of quarries (operational time is less than and equal to 5 years and proposed lease areas is more than 10 acres)	
40.	Development of Housing Estates/ Colonies	Ministry of Works and Human Settlements
41.	Construction of urban roads and urban drainage outside approved LAP	Ministry of Works and Human Settlements
42.	River Training or Flood Protection works	Ministry of Works and Human Settlements
43.	Surface Collection of sand and boulder	Department of Forest and Park Services
44.	Sand Dredging activities	Department of Forest and Park Services
45.	Setting up of Rope ways	Department of Forest and Park Services
46.	Construction of Irrigation Channel	Department of Agriculture
47.	Floriculture and Horticulture (medium and large scale)	Department of Forest and Park Services
48.	Commercial plantation of agricultural crops not involving use of GMOs and LMOs (medium and large scale)	
49.	Setting up of Dairy Farms	Department of Livestock (commercial)
50.	Setting up of Poultry Farms	Department of Livestock (semi commercial and commercial)

51.	Setting up of Piggery	Department of Livestock (semi commercial and commercial)
52.	Livestock Activities such as setting up of fisheries, pasture development and dog pound	Department of Livestock (medium and large scale)
53.	Establishment and operation of Meat Processing plant and slaughter house	Department of Livestock
54.	Medical Services (Diagnostic centers and X-ray)	Ministry of Health
55.	Road widening/curve improvement activities	DEC (NECS- if road widening/ curve improvement falls under two or more Dzongkhags)
56.	Road Realignment and bypass road	DEC (NECS- if road alignment/ bypass falls under two or more Dzongkhags)
57.	Construction of Bridge	DEC
58.	Construction of Power Tiller Road	DEC
59.	Construction of Farm Road, Feeder Road	DEC (NECS- if road alignment falls under two or more Dzongkhags)
60.	Construction of RNR Centers including staff quarters as package	DEC
61.	Construction of Gewog Centers including staff quarters as package	DEC
62.	Construction of BHU	DEC
63.	Construction of drinking water supply (Equal to or more than 10000 L/Day)	DEC
64.	Construction of Transmission lines and sub-station (less than or equal to 33KV)	DEC (NECS- if the transmission lines falls under two or more Dzongkhags)
65.	Construction of tourism infrastructure facilities (Hotels/Resorts/Service	DEC (NECS- if hotels/ resorts/ service apartments falls under two or more Dzongkhags)

	Apartments/Accommodations)	
66.	Establishment of Recreational Facilities (Park and Gardens)	DEC (NECS- if recreational facilities falls under two or more Dzongkhags)
67.	Establishment of Dump yard (excavated materials)	DEC
68.	Manufacturing of herbal tea, pan masala unit, betel nut, ice cream manufacturing, paper disposal utensils, paper souvenir, and traditional handmade paper (medium and large scale provided that the activity is as per the approved Local Area Plan/Industrial Estate/Special Economic Zone with Environmental Clearance and all scale proposed outside the approved Local Area Plan/Industrial Estate/Special Economic with Environmental Clearance)	
69.	Automobile Services (Workshop and water servicing)	DEC/ Thromde depending on the location of the activity
70.	Setting up of Telecommunication Towers	DEC/ Thromde depending on the location of the activity
71.	Construction of Private Road	DEC/ Thromde depending on the location of the activity
72.	Setting up and operation of Hot Mix Plant/Wet Mix Plant, Asphalt Plant, Bitumen Plant, Concrete Batching Plant	DEC/ Thromde depending on the location of the activity
73.	Construction of Community, Primary, Lower, Middle and Higher Secondary Schools	DEC/ Thromde depending on the location of the activity
74.	Engraving and polishing of wood and stones (medium and large)	
75.	Waste Management Facilities (material recovery/transfer stations)	

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76.	Tyre rethreading activities *	Department of Industry
77.	Fabrication activities	Department of Industry

Red list: Projects subjected to Environment Impact Assessment

Sl.no	Activity
1.	Hydropower Projects
2.	National Highways
3.	Ferroalloys industry
4.	Cement plants
5.	Steel industry and rolling mills
6.	Aluminum and copper smelter
7.	Coke making
8.	Mines
9.	Quarries (operational time more than 5 years and proposed lease areas is more than 10 acres)
10.	Local Area Plan (LAP)
11.	Establishment of Industrial Estates

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