



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NDU

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINE No. 27

Timber Warehousing

1.0 Purpose of guideline

This environmental guideline for timber warehousing has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment & NDU to ensure that all environmental issues are duly taken into consideration by stakeholders.

2.0 Nature of development

Timber is mainly used for construction, manufacture of furniture as well as for paper production. Timber warehousing essentially involves the unloading and storage of timber.

3.0 Potential impacts

The major issues associated with the timber warehousing are noise and solid waste disposal. The different aspects impacts and nuisances related to such activities are listed below:

Activity	Aspects	Impacts/ Nuisances
Construction phase		
Site preparation / construction of warehouse <i>(Where applicable)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generation of excavated soil , debris and construction wastes - Use of heavy machinery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Dumping into barelands, water bodies and drains -Dust, noise and mud -Visual impacts
Operation phase		
Loading and unloading of timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicular movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Noise pollution - Air pollution
Storage of timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inadequate ventilation and lighting - Poor housekeeping - Risk of fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Odour -Impact on air quality - Pests / Rodents / Flies -Air pollution

4.0 Siting of activity

Timber warehouses should be located outside residential areas.

5.0 Environmental conditions

The major environmental issues are **noise and solid waste disposal** and the following conditions shall be observed:

1. All electric motors such as circular saws shall be housed in soundproof enclosures to keep noise level within permissible limits as per the Environment Protection (Environmental Standards for Noise) Regulations 1997. The noise exposure limits as per the above regulation are as follows:

Industrial noise		Neighbourhood noise	
7:00 – 21:00	60*dB(A) Leq	7:00 – 18:00	60 dB(A) Leq
21:00 – 7:00	55*dB(A) Leq	18:00 - 21:00	55 dB(A) Leq
		21:00 – 7:00	50 dB(A) Leq

* A tonal character adjustment of +5 dB(A) should be applied to the measured value where the noise has a definite continuous note such as a whine or hiss.

- (ii) All solid wastes generated from the timber warehouse shall be collected and disposed of.
- (iii) Wastewaters shall be collected and disposed of.
- (iv) No nuisance by way of noise dust shall be caused to the public and surrounding environment during site preparation, infrastructural works and during operation of the activity.
- (v) The Department of Environment of the Ministry of Environment and NDU shall be informed in writing of the dates of commencement of works on site and operation of the activity for monitoring purposes.

6.0 Enforcement

Under Section 13 of the Environment Protection Act 2002, the enforcing agencies for the different environmental medium or pollutants are as follows:

S. No	Environmental media/ pollutant	Enforcing Agency
1	Noise	Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
2	Effluents	Ministry of Public Utilities
3	Solid wastes	Ministry of Local Government
4	Air pollution	Ministry of Environment

The above-mentioned enforcing agencies shall monitor compliance with the conditions falling under their purview.

7.0 Offences

Any person who fails to comply with any regulations/standards referred to in this guideline shall commit an offence and shall:

- (i) on a first conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50, 000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- (ii) on a second or subsequent conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 8 years.

For further information, please contact

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