



Subject: ORDER U/S 6(1)(t) AND 12(2)(b) OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1997 FOR INCLUSION OF SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION CONDITION IN ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS FOR HOUSING SOCIETIES

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab is mandated under the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (as amended), to provide for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and improvement of the environment and the prevention and control of pollution;

2. **AND WHEREAS**, the disposal of untreated municipal or sewerage wastewater from housing societies poses serious environmental and public health concern, leading to contamination of water bodies, groundwater pollution, and spread of waterborne diseases;

3. **AND WHEREAS**, international research recognizes that properly designed three-chamber septic tanks at the household level can reduce Total Suspended Solids (TSS) by approximately 70% and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) by around 40% through natural biological processes, thereby substantially reducing the pollution load on centralized treatment facilities;

4. **AND WHEREAS**, it is imperative to ensure that housing societies adopt a dual approach to wastewater management, comprising

- 2/c*
- i. *Installation of three-chamber septic tanks at each household and commercial plaza/building; and*
 - ii. *Development of an end-of-pipe wastewater treatment facility at the society level for final discharge;*

Handwritten signature

5. **AND WHEREAS**, the Section 6(1)(t) of the Act ibid empowers EPA to take or cause to be taken all necessary measures for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of the environment, prevention and control of pollution and promotion of sustainable development;

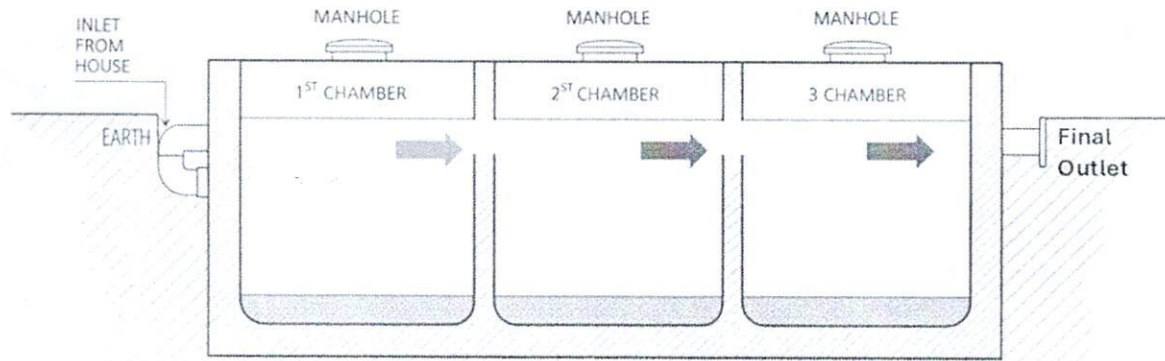
6. **AND WHEREAS**, the EPA Punjab grants Environmental Approvals to housing societies under Section 12 of the Act *ibid*, and Section 12(2)(b) authorizes the Agency to impose such conditions as deemed appropriate while according approval;

7. **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh, PAS, Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 6(1)(t) read with Section 12(2)(b) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, do hereby order that:

- i. Henceforth, every Environmental Approval granted to a housing society shall mandatorily include a condition requiring the installation of a properly designed three-chamber septic tank at each household and commercial building, in addition to an end-of-pipe wastewater treatment facility, to ensure safe disposal and treatment of wastewater.*
- ii. The following minimum design dimensions of three chamber septic tanks shall be adhered to by all housing societies:*

| Sr. No. | Plot Area | Dimensions of Three Chamber Septic Tank (Feet) | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|-------|--------|
| | | Length | Width | Height |
| Residential / Household | | | | |
| i. | Less than 5 Marlas | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| ii. | 5 Marlas | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| iii. | 10 Marlas | 9 | 6 | 4 |
| iv. | Above 10 Marlas | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| Commercial Plazas | | | | |
| v. | 1 Kanal | 10 | 6 | 5 |
| vi. | 2 – 3 Kanals | 12 | 6 | 5 |
| vii. | 3 – 4 Kanals | 15 | 6 | 5 |
| viii. | Above 4 Kanals | 16 | 6 | 5 |

8. The schematic diagram of a three-chamber septic tank is given below for reference:



This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force until modified or withdrawn.

Issued under my hand and seal on this 12th day of September, 2025.

OC

M. Imran Hamid Sheikh

DR. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH (PAS)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
PUNJAB

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

- i. The Director General Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency (PHATA), LDA, MDA, GDA, FDA, RDA, BDA, DGDA and SDA
- ii. **All Deputy Commissioners of Punjab for compliance in granting Environmental Approvals to Land sub-divisions**
- iii. PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D
- iv. The Secretary, Judicial Water & Environment Commission (JWEC), Punjab
- v. The Additional Director General (Ops & Imp), EPA Punjab
- vi. The Director (P&C) / Specialized Effluent Monitoring & Enforcement Unit EPA Punjab
- vii. All the Directors EPA Punjab. *15/9/2025*
- viii. **Director (EIA) to ensure compliance of this order and for issuance of necessary letters to concerned**
- ix. **All Deputy/Assistant Director (Field), EPA to ensure compliance of this order**
- x. The In-charge, Strategy and Analysis Wing (SAW), EPA HQs
- xi. PS to Secretary Environment Protection & Climate Change Department, Punjab
- xii. PS to Secretary Housing Urban Development & Public Health Engineering, Punjab
- xiii. PA to Director General EPA Punjab.

