



GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY
EP&CCD Green Building, 110, Block - H,
College Road, Gulberg -II, Lahore

Dated the 18th January, 2026

EPA/SEC/O/260118/0002

NOTIFICATION

No. 442/PA/DG/EPA/2026

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTION OF EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COMPARISON OF TRADITIONAL (HAND-MOULDED) AND MECHANIZED BRICK PRODUCTION

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab, as the provincial environmental regulatory authority, is mandated to ensure protection, conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of the environment, prevention and control of pollution, and promotion of sustainable development in the Province;

2. **AND WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab has successfully ensured the transition of all brick kilns (approximately 8,000+) operating in Punjab from the conventional Bull Trench Kiln (BTK) technology to the comparatively cleaner and more environment-friendly Zigzag Kiln methodology, resulting in significant improvement in air quality and reduction in emissions;

3. **AND WHEREAS**, despite this technological transition, the issue of bonded and manual labour persists in the brick kiln sector, wherein entire families, including children, continue to be engaged in the manual moulding of bricks under coercive, unsafe and inhumane working conditions, often in extreme weather, thereby warranting serious policy-level, technical and regulatory interventions;

4. **AND WHEREAS**, EPA Punjab intends to undertake a comprehensive comparative study to assess the technical, environmental, social and economic implications of transitioning from manually moulded bricks to machine-moulded bricks, with a view to reducing dependence on manual labour while ensuring structural integrity, economic viability and environmental sustainability;

5. **AND WHEREAS**, Section 6(1)(i) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 empowers the Environmental Protection Agency to establish systems and procedures for surveys, surveillance, monitoring, examination, investigation, research and inspection for prevention and control of pollution;

6. **AND WHEREAS**, Section 6(1)(j) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to promote research and development of science and technology contributing to pollution prevention, environmental protection and sustainable development;

7. **NOW, THEREFORE**, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 6(1) (i) and (j) read with Section 5(4) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh, PAS, Director **General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab**, do hereby constitute the following **Expert Committee** for undertaking a **comparative technical, structural, environmental and labour-oriented assessment of traditional (hand-moulded) and mechanized brick production**:

i	Mr. Anjum Riaz Director (Planning & Coordination), EPA Headquarters	Convener
ii	Mr. Riaz Ahmad , Deputy Director (Lab), EPA Lab, Lahore	Member
iii	Representative of Communication & Works (C&W)	Member
iv	Representative of Infrastructure Development Authority of Pakistan (IDAP)	Member
v	Representative of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC)	Member
vi	Representative of NESPAK	Member
vii	Representative, Civil Engineering Department, University of Engineering & Technology (UET)	Member
viii	Rep of Brick Kilns Association of Pakistan	Member
ix	Mr. Muhammad Noman Younis Deputy Director (Research & Investigation), EPA Headquarters	Member / Secretary
x	Any other member to be co-opted by the members of the Committee	Member

8. **AND THEREFORE**, under the Terms of Reference (TORs), the committee shall:

- i. **Conduct a technical comparison** of hand-moulded and machine-moulded bricks focusing on manufacturing process, material quality, water absorption, compressive strength and durability against applicable engineering standards.
- ii. **Assess structural and masonry performance** of both brick types in load-bearing construction, including mortar bonding and suitability for low-rise buildings.
- iii. **Evaluate environmental implications** of manual and mechanized brick production in terms of energy use and emissions.

- iv. **Examine technical and economic feasibility** of transitioning from hand-moulded to machine-moulded bricks in Punjab, with particular reference to kiln-level adaptability.
- v. **Assess viability of concrete blocks** as an alternative construction material with respect to structural performance, cost and labour reduction potential.
- vi. **Submit a final report** with findings and recommendations to the Director General, EPA Punjab within **15 days** of issuance of this notification.

9. Issued under my hand & seal on this **15th day of January, 2026**.



(DR. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

C.C.

A copy is forwarded for information and necessary action to the:-

- 1) **Secretary, Communication & Works Department (C&W), Punjab with the request for nomination, please**
- 2) **Chief Executive Officer, IDAP with the request for nomination, please**
- 3) **Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) with the request for nomination, please**
- 4) **Dean / Head, Civil Engineering Department, UET with the request for nomination, please**
- 5) **Managing Director, NESPAK with the request for nomination, please**
- 6) **President, Brick Kilns Association of Pakistan with the request for nomination, please**
- 7) **PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D Board, Punjab.**
- 8) **All members of this committee / Officers Concerned**
- 9) **PS to Secretary , Environment Protection & Climate Change Department Punjab**
- 10) **PA to Director General EPA Punjab**