



No. 424/PA/DG/EPA/2025
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL HOCKEY STADIUM, LAHORE
Dated: 18/12/2025



ORDER

Subject: **MANDATORY DIGITAL LABORATORY CERTIFICATIONS, ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORDERS AND IMPORT RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH E-FOAS**

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

2. **AND WHEREAS**, transition towards a paperless regulatory regime is essential to reduce environmental footprint, conserve natural resources, eliminate manual handling of records, prevent record tampering, establish real-time traceability of regulatory actions, and enhance transparency, efficiency and public confidence in environmental governance;

3. **AND WHEREAS**, vide this Office Order No. 318/PA to DG/EPA/2025 dated 20.08.2025, all official correspondence of EPA Punjab has already shifted to e-FOAS, thereby formally institutionalizing digital workflow and electronic correspondence as the mandatory mode of governance in EPA Punjab.

4. **AND WHEREAS**, once electronic correspondence was made mandatory, it became imperative to bring all core regulatory processes of the Agency under the same centralized digital system to ensure legal certainty, traceability and enforcement integrity;

5. **AND WHEREAS**, Certification of Laboratories under Section 6(1)(k), Environmental Approvals under Section 12, Environmental Protection Orders under Section 16 of the Act *ibid*, recommendations for Import Licenses under the guidelines / SOPs issued by Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, are now being processed, scrutinized and approved through structured digital workflows on the e-FOAS, however, their final communication with the public or the Environment Protection & Climate Change Department (as the case may be) is still being done under the old manual system.

6. **AND WHEREAS**, in view of the foregoing, it is imperative that the final communication with the public or the Department (as the case may be) be done digitally to through e-FOAS so as to ensure uniformity of procedure, legal enforceability, centralized record management and institutional accountability;

7. **NOW, THEREFORE**, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me under Section 5(4) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh (PAS), Director

General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab, do hereby order that, henceforth **all Laboratory Certifications, Environmental Approvals, Environmental Protection Orders and Recommendations for Import Licenses shall be issued through e-FOAS only with system-generated unique reference number and QR-code authentication.**

8. Any Laboratory Certification, Environmental Approval, Environmental Protection Order or Recommendation for Import License issued outside e-FOAS shall be considered ultra vires, void ab initio, illegal, misuse of authority, and a deliberate attempt to flout this order which would attract disciplinary proceedings against the signatory of that document.

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

Issued under my hand and seal of this office on this 18th day of December, 2025.



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

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

1. The Secretary Environment Protection and Climate Change Department Punjab
2. All the Commissioners of Punjab
3. All the Deputy Commissioners of Punjab
4. The Secretary, Judicial Water & Environment Commission (JWEC), Punjab
5. The Chief Environment & Climate Change, P&D Board, Lahore.
6. The Additional Director General (Ops & Imp), EPA Punjab
7. All the Directors EPA Headquarters, Punjab
8. PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D Board, Punjab.
9. All the District In-charges (DDs/ADs), EPA Punjab
10. All the Presidents, Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Punjab
11. The Chief Executive Officers of EPA Certified Laboratories in Punjab
12. The In-charge Strategy and Analysis Wing EPA, Punjab
13. The In-charge social media team, EPA Punjab
14. PA to Director General, EPA