F. No. CCT-12/1/2026-CCT
Government of India
Ministry of Coal
GPOA-3, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi
Dated the 21st November, 2026

Order

Subject: Approval to the modifications in the "Accreditation Scheme for Prospecting/Exploration Agency (APA) and Mining Plan Preparing Agency (MPPA)" as per provisions of the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026

Whereas the "standards and procedures" for accreditation of Prospecting Agencies and Mining Plan Preparing Agencies were specified in Schedule VI of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, inserted vide G.S.R. 331(E) dated 29.05.2020;

2. And whereas, QCI-NABET developed the "Accreditation Scheme for Prospecting/Exploration Agency (APA) and Mining Plan Preparing Agency (MPPA)" (in short, "the Scheme") which was covered under Schedule VI of the then existing provisions of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960;

3. And whereas, by the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, notified vide G.S.R. 999 (E) dated 17th November, 2026, the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 have been amended and the amended provisions read as under:

(i) rule 21C:

"21C. Accreditation system for prospecting operations and preparation of geological report.-The QCI-NABET shall grant accreditation to Prospecting Agency for undertaking prospecting operations and preparation of geological report in accordance with the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal in this regard.";

(ii) sub-rule (3) of rule 22B:

"(3) The QCI-NABET shall grant accreditation in accordance with the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal in this regard."; and

(iii) Schedule VI shall be omitted;

4. And whereas a comprehensive revision of the Scheme shall be undertaken in due course, and it is necessary that the accreditation process continues till then;

5. Now, therefore, the following modifications to the existing Scheme are decided:

(i) **Clause-wise changes:**

S. No.	Clause (Existing Scheme)	Modifications
1	1.1 Background	For the sentence "The details regarding the QCI – NABET accreditation procedure is defined under schedule VI in the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rule 2020, vide notification number G.S.R 331(E) dated 29.05.2020.", the following shall be substituted:

		"As per the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, QCI-NABET shall grant accreditation in accordance with this Scheme."
2	4.0	For the words "3-Years period", the words "5-Years period" shall be substituted.
3	4.4 Updation of the Scheme	Clause 4.4 shall be substituted as the following: “Updation of the Scheme The accreditation Scheme is dynamic in nature. Modifications and updation will take place from time to time with the consultation and approval of the Ministry of Coal. It ought to be for continually improving the delivery and effectiveness of the consultancy. QCI/NABET reserves all rights to amend its accreditation scheme, procedures and fees etc., as it may deem fit, subject to the approval of the Central Government through Ministry of Coal. Applicant(s) agency/ organisation are requested to refer to the updated scheme on the QCI/NABET website (http://nabet.qci.org.in/) before applying for their accreditation/surveillance/re-accreditation/expansion or modification of scope.”
4	6.0 Accreditation Cycle	(i) For the words "3 years", at both the places, the words "5 years" shall be substituted; (ii) for the words "18 months", at both the places, the words "30 months" shall be substituted; (iii) for the words "three years", the words "five years" shall be substituted.
5	7.1 Application assessment process	(i) For the words "15 months", the words "27 months" shall be substituted; (ii) for the words "33 months", the words "57 months" shall be substituted.
6	Appendix D, Note 2 and Note 8	In Note 2, after the words ‘if deemed necessary’, and in Note 8, after the words ‘market scenario’, the words ‘, subject to clause 4.4 of this Scheme’ shall be inserted.”.
7	Appendix E, E 1.0 Accreditation Cycle	(i) For the words "3 years", at all the three places, the words "5 years" shall be substituted; (ii) for the words "18 months", at all the three places, the words "30 months" shall be substituted.
8	Appendix E, E 4.0	(i) For the words "18 months", the words "30 months" shall be substituted; (ii) for the words "15 months", the words "27 months" shall be substituted.
9	Appendix E, E 4.10	For the words "36 months", the words "60 months" shall be substituted.
10	Appendix E, E 5.0	(i) For the words "3 years", at both the places, the words "5 years" shall be substituted; (ii) for the words "18+15=33 months", the words "57 months" shall be substituted.
11	Annexure 2,	For the words "last 18 months", the words "last 30 months" shall

	point 15.1	be substituted.
12	Annexure 3, point 15.3	For the words "last 3 years", the words "last 5 years" shall be substituted.

6. The modifications in the Scheme at para 5(i) above shall come into force with effect from the date on which the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, come into force.

7. Accreditation granted under Schedule VI of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, before its omission, shall continue to be recognised under the Scheme.

8. This Order shall remain valid for a period of four months from the date of its issue.

9. QCI-NABET shall submit the comprehensive revised Scheme to the Ministry of Coal within 45 days from the date of issue of this Order.

10. This issues with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of Coal.

Digitally signed by
Pradeep Raj Nayan
Date: 21-11-2026
09:10:39

(Pradeep Raj Nayan)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Email: nayan.pradeep@gov.in

To,

1. Chief Secretaries of all States
2. Administrators of Union Territories
3. Coal Controller
4. Chairman, Coal India Limited
5. CMD, Singareni Collieries Company Limited
6. CMD, NLC India Limited
7. CMD, CMPDIL
8. CMD, MECL
9. Quality Council of India / NABET
10. All the Notified Accredited Prospecting/Exploration Agencies
11. All Accredited MPPAs

Copy to -

1. PPS to Hon'ble Minister of Coal
2. PPS to Hon'ble MoS (Coal)
3. PPS to Secretary (Coal)
4. PPS to AS (Coal)
5. PPS to AS&NA
6. O/o all JS/EA/DDG/Adv (P)
7. All Directors/DS/US/SO, Ministry of Coal
8. Sr. T.D., NIC for uploading on the website of Ministry of Coal

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (i)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (i)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 892] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, नवम्बर 17, 2026/कार्तिक 26, 1948
No. 892] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026/KARTIKA 26, 1948

कोयला मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 17 नवम्बर, 2026

सा.का.नि. 999(अ).— केन्द्रीय सरकार, खान और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1957 (1957 का 67) की धारा 13 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, खनिज रियायत नियम, 1960 का और संशोधन करने के लिए निम्नलिखित नियम बनाती है, अर्थात: -

1. (1) इन नियमों का संक्षिप्त नाम खनिज रियायत (तीसरा संशोधन) नियम, 2026 है।

(2) ये राजपत्र में इनके प्रकाशन की तारीख को प्रवृत्त होंगे।

2. खनिज रियायत नियम, 1960 में -

(i) नियम 21ग के स्थान पर, निम्नलिखित नियम रखा जाएगा, अर्थात:

"21ग. पूर्वेक्षण प्रचालन और भूवैज्ञानिक रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के लिए प्रत्यायन प्रणाली - क्यूसीआई-एनएबीईटी, पूर्वेक्षण अभिकरणों को इस संबंध में क्यूसीआई-एनएबीईटी द्वारा तैयार की गई और कोयला मंत्रालय द्वारा अनुमोदित स्कीम के अनुसार पूर्वेक्षण प्रचालन और भूवैज्ञानिक रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के लिए प्रत्यायन प्रदान करेगी।";

(ii) नियम 22ख के उप-नियम (3) में, "इन नियमों की अनुसूची VI में विहित मानकों और प्रक्रियाओं" शब्दों और अक्षरों के स्थान पर, "इस संबंध में क्यूसीआई-एनएबीईटी द्वारा तैयार की गई और कोयला मंत्रालय द्वारा अनुमोदित स्कीम" शब्द और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(iii) अनुसूची VI का लोप किया जाएगा।

[फा. सं. सीसीटी-12/1/2026-सीसीटी]

सनोज कुमार झा, अपर सचिव

टिप्पण - मूल नियम भारत के राजपत्र, भाग-II, खंड 3, उप-खंड (i) में, संख्यांक सा.का.नि. 1398, तारीख 26 नवंबर, 1960 द्वारा प्रकाशित किए गए थे और इन्हें संख्यांक सा.का.नि. 796(अ), तारीख 9 सितंबर, 2026 द्वारा संशोधित किया गया था।

MINISTRY OF COAL

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 17th November, 2026

G.S.R. 999(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, namely: —

1. (1) These rules may be called the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026.

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. In the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, -

(i) for rule 21C, the following rule shall be substituted, namely: -

"21C. Accreditation system for prospecting operations and preparation of geological report. - The QCI-NABET shall grant accreditation to Prospecting Agency for undertaking prospecting operations and preparation of geological report in accordance with the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal in this regard.";

(ii) in rule 22B, in sub-rule (3), for the words and letters "standards and procedures prescribed in Schedule VI of these rules", the words and letters "the scheme prepared by QCI-NABET and approved by the Ministry of Coal in this regard" shall be substituted;

(iii) Schedule VI shall be omitted.

[F. No. CCT-12/1/2026-CCT]

SANOJ KUMAR JHA, Addl. Secy.

Note. - The principal rules were published in the Gazette of India, Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide number G.S.R. 1398, dated the 26th November, 1960 and lastly amended vide number G.S.R. 796(E), dated the 9th September, 2026.

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