

PROCEDURE FOR PERMISSION/ INTIMATION FOR FELLING OF TREES

1	Competent Authority	Forest Department, Government of Tamil Nadu
2	Stage	Procedure for Permission / Intimation for Felling of Trees
3	Approving Authority	District Forest Officer (DFO)
4	Pre-conditions for application procedure	<p>1. If the area in which the trees are to be felled falls under Private Forest or Hill Area as per the TN Preservation of Private Forest Act, 1949 or the TN Hill Area (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955, the concerned District Collector (Chairman of the District Committee) is to be approached.</p> <p>2. If the area is a Reserved Forest/ Reserved Land/ Protected Area (Sanctuary, National Park or Conservation Reserve), the felling of trees would be part of the process for diversion of forest land as per the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. The NOC for felling of trees in these areas is issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and can be obtained from its website (www.forestclearance.nic.in). In such cases, the issue of NOC for tree felling by Tamil Nadu Forest Department separately does not arise.</p> <p>3. For all other areas other than those mentioned in (1) and (2), such as Patta (private) land and Revenue land, the procedure for permission / intimation for felling of trees (depending on the species classification) is given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Sandalwood, the tree(s) after felling shall be sold only to Government. The combined procedure is elaborated in Procedure I below. • For the other Scheduled timber trees namely Black wood, Rose wood(outside the notified forests*), Silver oak, Teak and Red Sanders, no permission for felling of trees is required, however prior intimation is mandatory 15 days before felling and the procedure is elaborated in Procedure II, below. • For all other tree species, no permission or intimation for felling of trees is required. <p>*(Forests as per Tamil Nadu Rosewood Trees (Conservation) Act,1994 includes waste or communal land containing trees, shrubs and roads, pasture land and any other class of land declared by notification by the Government to be a forest. Explanation: - for the purposes of this clause “communal land means” – (i) beds and bunds of tanks and of supply, drainage, surplus or irrigation channels (ii) Threshing-floor, cattle-stands, village-sites and other lands which are set apart for the common use of the villagers)</p>

5	Procedure I and Documents Required	<p align="center">Procedure for obtaining permission for felling and selling of sandal wood trees</p> <p>1. Apply in the online web portal (https://www.forests.tn.gov.in/) along with all required documents as listed below.</p> <p>Documents Required(to be uploaded in the portal):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of certificate of ownership of the land in which the sandalwood trees are grown, as issued by the Tahsildar. Copy of Chitta / Adangal. FMB (Filed Measurement Book) Sketch of the patta land. Proof of the deed of tenancy, lease, mortgage with possession or otherwise executed in favour of the owner of the sandalwood tree. List of sandalwood trees proposed to be sold. <table border="1" data-bbox="495 787 1369 987"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="495 787 634 907">Tree number</th> <th data-bbox="634 787 776 907">Species</th> <th data-bbox="776 787 1078 907">Girth (in cm) at 1.37m height from ground level</th> <th data-bbox="1078 787 1219 907">Height (m)</th> <th data-bbox="1219 787 1369 907">Age (Approximately)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="495 907 634 947"></td> <td data-bbox="634 907 776 947"></td> <td data-bbox="776 907 1078 947"></td> <td data-bbox="1078 907 1219 947"></td> <td data-bbox="1219 907 1369 947"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="495 947 634 987"></td> <td data-bbox="634 947 776 987"></td> <td data-bbox="776 947 1078 987"></td> <td data-bbox="1078 947 1219 987"></td> <td data-bbox="1219 947 1369 987"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The DFO shall examine the application and other documents furnished by the applicant and verify the ownership of the sandalwood trees that are proposed to be sold to the Government. In case of any queries on the application, the DFO shall raise queries through the online portal within 7 days from receipt of the application. The DFO shall immediately or after clarification of the queries, forward the application to the concerned Forest Range Officer based on the jurisdiction. The Forest Range Officer (FRO) shall inspect all the sandalwood trees which are proposed to be felled & sold and mark such trees for extraction. The FRO shall submit the inspection report to the District Forest Officer (DFO)/ Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) within 15 days of after receiving the application from DFO. Within 10 days on receipt of the FRO report, the District Forest Officer (or) the Assistant Conservator of Forests shall check at least 10% of the Sandalwood trees (i.e., one in every ten trees) proposed to be sold. Post inspection, the DFO shall populate and upload the inspection report on the portal within 48 hours. 	Tree number	Species	Girth (in cm) at 1.37m height from ground level	Height (m)	Age (Approximately)										
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		<p>7. The DFO/ACF shall verify the condition of the sandalwood trees proposed to be sold and the documents furnished by the owner of the sandalwood tree at the time of submission along with the inspection report prepared by the FRO. The DFO shall grant permission to fell those sandalwood trees and sell the same to the Government (subject to such conditions as he may think fit and in accordance with the provisions of the rules).</p> <p>[G.O.Ms.No.140.E&F(FR4)20.10.2008 - The Tamil Nadu Sandal Wood Trees on Patta Land Rules - 2008.]</p> <p>8. The DFO shall issue a digitally signed final permit within 3 days after uploading the inspection report and communicate to the owner of sandalwood tree and the concerned FRO.(The District Forest Officer may also refuse to grant such permission, after recording the reason therefore).</p> <p>Timeline for issuing NOC: maximum of 37 days</p>															
6	<p>Procedure II and Documents Required</p>	<p>Procedure for prior intimation of felling of Red sanders, Black wood, Silver oak, Rose wood and Teak trees</p> <p>1. Apply in the online web portal https://www.forests.tn.gov.in/ along with all required documents as listed below: Documents Required (to be uploaded in the portal):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of certificate of ownership of the land in which the proposed trees are grown, as issued by the Tahsildar. Extract of Chitta / Adangal. FMB Sketch of the patta land. Proof of the deed of tenancy, lease, mortgage with possession or otherwise executed in favour of the owner of the tree(s). List of tree(s) proposed to be felled. <table border="1" data-bbox="495 1491 1369 1732"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tree number</th> <th>Species</th> <th>Girth (in cm) at 1.37m height from ground level</th> <th>Height (m)</th> <th>Age (Approximately)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. The District Forest Officer (DFO) shall examine the application and other documents furnished by the applicant. In case of any queries on the application, the DFO shall raise queries through the online portal within 5days from receipt of the application.</p>	Tree number	Species	Girth (in cm) at 1.37m height from ground level	Height (m)	Age (Approximately)										
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		<p>3. The DFO shall inspect the trees that are proposed to be felled and verify the trees as well as ownership of the land. DFO may also delegate the inspection to ACF or FRO. The inspection shall be completed within 8 days.</p> <p>4. Post inspection, the DFO shall populate and upload the inspection report on the portal within 48 hours.</p> <p>5. The DFO shall grant permission for the felling of trees by issuing a digitally signed NOC through the online portal within 3 days on uploading the inspection report and communicate to the owner of the trees and the concerned FRO.</p> <p>Timeline for issuing NOC: within 18 days on the receipt of the online application</p>
8	Important additional information	<p>1. As per Rule 3-A of the Tamil Nadu Maintenance of Accounts in respect of Scheduled Timber for Industrial or Commercial Purposes Rules, 1988, a person can store more than 0.5 cubic meter of Scheduled timber without distinguishable Government mark or property mark affixed on such Scheduled timber if such Scheduled timber is obtained by felling standing trees in his own land or in any other person's private land and he has informed the District Forest Officer having jurisdiction over the area, fifteen days in advance of such storage and has applied for property mark within fifteen days of such storage. The Scheduled timber trees referred to in this rule are: Black wood, Rose wood, Silver oak, Teak and Red Sanders</p> <p>2. For other non-exempt non-scheduled trees, the application for registration of the property mark is to be submitted soon after felling of the trees.</p> <p>3. The following Acts and Rules may be perused for additional information in this regard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882. • TN Preservation of Private Forest Act, 1949 • TN Hill Area (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955 • Tamil Nadu Sandalwood Transit Rules 1967 • Tamil Nadu Timber Transit Rules 1968 • Tamil Nadu Sandalwood Possession rules 1970 • Tamil Nadu Sandalwood Trees Patta Land rules, 2008 • Tamil Nadu Maintenance of accounts in respect of Scheduled Timber for Industrial or Commercial Purposes rules, 1988 (Read with amendment rules in 2010) • Tamil Nadu Rosewood Trees (Conservation) Act, 1994