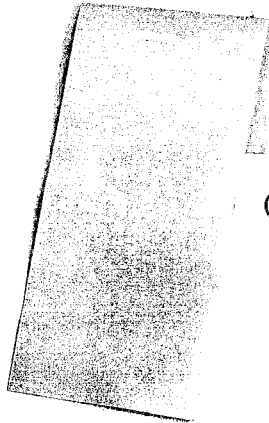


File copy

3 Copies.



No. 2-1/2007 Fert.Law
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
(Department of Agri.& Coop.)

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated 11th March, 2008

To

1. The Secretary Agriculture,
(All State Governments/UTs.)
2. Fertiliser Association of India,
10 Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi.
3. All Urea/complex fertilizer manufacturers

Subject:- Formulation of the guidelines for production and use of customized fertilizers under Clause 20 B of FCO, 1985-balanced use of fertilizer-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to say that keeping in view the focus of the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture on the balanced use of fertilizer, development of customized fertilizer has become a pre requisite. To regulate value added customized fertilizers to maintain balanced nutrient application, a new Clause under Clause 20B has been introduced to produce and promote the concept of customized fertilizer. Clause 20B of FCO, 1985 provides that the Central Government may by order published in the Official Gazette notified specifications valid for a period not exceeding three years in respect of customized fertilizer to be manufactured by the manufacturing unit. In pursuance of the said Clause the Ministry has formulated guidelines for manufacture and sale of customized fertilizers. Copy of the guidelines formulated by the Ministry to produce and promote customized fertilizer is enclosed herewith for information and necessary action of State Governments and all Urea/ Complex fertilizers manufacturers.

Yours faithfully,

Dharampal
(Dharam Pal)

Deputy Commissioner(INM)

Copy for information and necessary action to :-

1. Director Agriculture, All State Governments/UTs.
2. Joint Secretary(A&M), DOF, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. Executive Director, Fertiliser Industry Coordination Committee, DOF, Sewa Bhavan, R.K.Puram, New Delhi.

Guidelines for manufacture and sale of Customised Fertilizer under
Clause 20 B of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

1. Objectives:

The main objective of Customised Fertilizer is to promote site specific nutrient management so as to achieve the maximum fertilizer use efficiency of applied nutrient in a cost effective manner. The Customized Fertilizer may include the combination of nutrients, based on soil testing and requirement of crop, and the formulation may be of primary, secondary and micro-nutrients. It may include 100% water soluble fertilizers grades required in various stages of crop growth based on research findings.

2. Definition:

Customized fertilizer is a concept related to balanced plant nutrition. Such fertilizers are based on the sound scientific plant nutrition principle and research. Customized fertilizers provide the best nutritional package for premium quality plant growth and yield. They are defined as multi-nutrient carrier designed to contain macro and/or micro nutrient forms, both from inorganic and/or organic sources, manufactured through a systematic process of granulation, satisfying the crop's nutritional needs, specific to its site, soil and stage, validated by a scientific crop model capability developed by an accredited fertilizer manufacturing/marketing company. Such fertilizers also include water soluble speciality fertilizer as customized combination products. Prospective manufacturers or marketers are expected to use the software tools like Decision Support System for Agro Technology Transfer (DSSAT), Crop Model etc. to determine the optimal grades of customized fertilizers.

3. Eligibility Criteria for manufacture and sale of Customised fertilizer

- (i) Permission for manufacture and sale of Customised Fertilizer shall be granted to only such manufacturing companies whose annual turnover is Rs. 500 crores or above.
- (ii) Such manufacturing companies should have soil testing facility with an annual analyzing capacity of 10,000 samples per annum and should have analyzing capacity for NPK, Micronutrient and

Secondary Nutrient. Such soil testing labs must possess the requisite instruments as provided in Annexure-I).

(iii) The grades of customized fertilizer, which the company will manufacture, must be based on scientific data obtained from area-specific, soil-specific and crop-specific, soil testing results. These manufacturing companies, in association with agricultural universities/KVKs concerned, should also conduct agronomy tests of the proposed grade to establish its agronomic efficacy.

(iv) Such manufacturing companies should generate multi-locational trials(not on farm demonstration) on different crops for minimum one season.

4. **Soil Sampling and Analysis**

Such manufacturing companies must draw these soil samples from within its operational areas and should also ensure that minimum one sample is necessarily, drawn from each village. Scientific data on soil testing results, available with agricultural university/State Governments may also be used to prepare soil fertility map and for determination of required soil, area and crop specific grades for existing and potential marketing areas.

5. **Grant of permission for manufacture of customized fertilizers**

Subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria referred to in the preceding paragraphs, the permission for manufacture and sale of Customised Fertilizer will be granted by Joint Secretary (INM), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, MOA, GOI. Such permission, for manufacture and sale of particular customized fertilizer grade shall be granted only for the specific area and for a period not exceeding three years. Such manufacturing companies must start their manufacturing and sales process within a period of six months from the date of grant of such permission. For grant of permission to produce and to sell such Customized fertilizers, the concerned manufacturing companies should necessarily apply for permission, to the office of the Joint Secretary (INM), Ministry of Agriculture under intimation to the State Government, in the prescribed Performa as provided in annexure II. The competent authority shall expedite the requisite permission/authorization or otherwise within 45 days of the receipt of such applications.

6. **Renewal and Revision of Customised Fertilizer Grade**

On completion of three years or earlier, manufacturing company of customized fertilizer shall submit a renewal/revision application for varied customized fertilizers manufactured by it. In case, no change in the already approved composition of customized fertilizer is required, the same shall also be declared by the manufacturer. The competent authority, shall, thereon, accord its approval within a period of 45 days from the date of receipt of such application, failing which the duly acknowledged copy of such application shall be treated as official approval.

7. **Customized Fertilizer Grades:**

The grades of customized fertilizers which the manufacturing company propose to manufacture and sell, shall be based on area-specific, soil-specific and crop-specific soil testing results. The manufacturer may in association with agricultural universities/KVKs concerned, shall also conduct agronomy tests of the proposed grade to establish its agronomic efficacy. The manufacturing company, preferably in association with concerned Agriculture Universities/KVKs may continue to conduct agronomy tests of the proposed grades on the farm, for at least one season. The minimum nutrient contents in a specific grade of customized fertilizer, proposed to be manufactured, shall contain not less than 30 units of all nutrients, combined.

8. For manufacture of area-specific subsequent grades of Customized Fertilizers, duly approved by the Joint Secretary(INM), MOA, from time to time, the company shall intimate the competent authority, within at least 45 days prior to the introduction of the said grades in the market. Since these grades of customized fertilizer will be based on the scientific data, no formal approval shall be necessary.

9. **Raw Material**

(i) **Use of subsidized fertilizers by Manufacturer of Customized Fertilizer:**

As per the existing policy, all subsidized fertilizers can be used for manufacturing of customized fertilizers. As such, domestic manufacturers of all such subsidized fertilizers will have the choice to

sell the requisite quantity to the manufacturing companies of customized fertilizers and the manufacturing company of such subsidized fertilizer shall be eligible to claim subsidy from DOF, under relevant rules.

(ii) Captive use of subsidized fertilizers by the manufacturer of customized fertilizer:

Domestic manufacturing company of subsidized fertilizer will have the option to supply the required quantity of such fertilizers, as raw materials, to its own manufacturing unit for production of customized fertilizers. All such supplies shall be eligible for subsidy as per the policy of DOF.

(iii) Import of subsidized fertilizers by manufacturer of Customized fertilizers:

All manufacturing companies of customized fertilizers will have the option to import subsidized fertilizers under existing Policy guidelines of GOI for the manufacture of customized fertilizers not exceeding its realistic requirements. On the imported quantity of such fertilizer to be used for manufacture of customized fertilizer, such manufacturers shall be eligible for subsidy from DOF, under relevant rules.

(iv) Allocation of subsidized fertilizer as raw material for manufacture of customized fertilizers

Specific allocations of subsidized fertilizers, to ensure adequate availability, in respect of States, may be made for use as raw materials for manufacture of Customised Fertilizers. However, if required, permission for import of specific fertilizers as raw material (not included in schedule 1 of FCO, 1985) may also be granted to the manufacturers.

10. Quality of Customized fertilizers:

The customized fertilizers to be used for basal application shall be granular in size with minimum 90% between 1-4 mm IS sieve and below 1mm IS sieve shall not exceed 5%. The moisture content should not exceed 1.5%. For foliar application, however, the grades should be 100% water soluble. The specifications of the customized

fertilizers provided by the company to manufacture of Customized Fertilizers, duly approved by the Ministry, shall be strictly adhered to.

11. Quality Check

(i) Procedure for drawl of sample of fertilizers :

- a) The method of drawing samples, shall be as provided in the FCO;
- b) Clause 4A(iii)-Weight of one sample should be 400gms, as specified under Clause 4A (iii) for Part A in Schedule I of the FCO,1985.

(ii) Methods of analysis of fertilizer

- a) The methods of analysis of fertilizers shall be as per the procedure prescribed in the FCO;
- b) For preparation of sample for analysis in the laboratory (Clause I (i) under part-B in schedule II of FCO, 1985. The whole sample size of 400gms shall be powdered.

(iii) Tolerance limit

The tolerance limits prescribed under the FCO, 1985 for NPK mixtures and NPK with micronutrients, shall be applicable to the customized fertilizers. However, such tolerance limit shall not exceed 3% for all nutrients particularly when secondary and micronutrients are also present with NPK.

12. Labeling:

- (i) The word Customized Fertilizer shall be superscribed on the bags.
- (ii) The name of the crop and geographical area for which the Customized Fertilizer recommended shall also be indicated on the bags.
- (iii) The grades of Customized Fertilizer and the nutrient contents shall be mentioned on the bags.
- (iv) The manufacturer should preferably have tampered proof bagging so as to have a check on adulteration.

13. Pricing of Customised fertilizer:-

The Company shall fix reasonable MRP for its approved grade of customized fertilizers for taking all factors into consideration.

14. General:

The permission for manufacture of customized fertilizer shall be restricted to such manufacturing companies of fertilizers who have the certificate for manufacture and authorization letter for selling fertilizers in a particular State.

All the provisions of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and Essential Commodities Act 1955, shall be applicable for manufacture and sale of Customized Fertilizer.

.....

LIST OF EQUIPMENTS FOR SETTING UP OF NEW SOIL TESTING LABORATORIES FOR CREATING NPK WITH MICRONUTRIENT TESTING FACILITIES.

<u>Sr.No.</u>	<u>Name of the Instrument</u>
1.	Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer
2.	Spectrophotometer
3.	Flame Photometer
4.	pH Meter
5.	Conductivity Bridge
6.	Colorimeter
7.	Kjeldhal Distillation Set
8.	Waster Distillation Set (all glass)
9.	Centrifuge
10.	Deionizer
11.	Balances
12.	Grinders other instruments like Hotplate, gas Cylinders, heaters etc.
13.	Stabilizers
14.	Sample holding racks
15.	Computer with printer
16.	Software for preparation of recommendation and record of data

APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PERMISSION FOR MANUFACTURE OF
CUSTOMISED FERTILIZER

1. Name of the Company and address
2. Location of the unit (where the Customised grade of fertilizer is proposed to be manufactured)
3. Annual Turnover of the company
4. Location /Particular of the Area where the Customised fertilizer is to be introduced
5. Soil Fertility Status of the Area
6. Introduction Season
7. Cropping Pattern of the Area
8. Soil pH
9. Irrigated or unirrigated land
10. Location of soil testing Lab
11. Annual Analysing Capacity of soil samples
12. Area climate
13. Grades and other details relating to composition of Customised Fertilizer
14. Indicative MRP
15. Indicate specific quantities and sources of raw materials to be used for manufacturer of customized fertilizer subsidized material to be used)
16. Quantity to be produced in each season
17. Whether the company possess any permission for manufacturing the grades of Customised fertilizer in any other area
 - (i) Whether the company possess the soil testing facility as prescribed in Annex II of guidelines,
 - (ii) Whether the proposed grades are based on the soil testing results and crop requirement
 - (iii) Whether the multi locational trials have been conducted or not
 - (iv) Whether the agronomic test of the product in consultation with Universities/ KVK have been conducted or not

Declaration:-

I/we declare that the information given above is true to the best of my/our knowledge and belief and no part thereof is false.

Date
Place

Signature of the Applicant(s)

Note: