Guidelines

Movement of Over Dimensional Cargo in National Waterways & Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route
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## Contents

### Preface

### Office Memorandum

#### Guidelines for Movement of ODC in NWs & Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route

1. Introduction  
2. Over Dimensional Cargo (ODC)  
3. Definitions  
4. Movement of ODC  
5. Consolidated Fee  
6. Service provided by IWAI  
7. Safe Navigation  
8. Procedure  
9. Procedure for Payment of Consolidated Fee  
10. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)  
11. Territorial Jurisdiction  
12. River Information Service  
13. Emergency Services to be provided by IWAI  
14. Responsibility of the Operator  
15. Penalty  
16. Force Majeure  
17. Dispute Resolution Mechanism  
18. Miscellaneous  
19. Completion of ODC movement  
20. Annexure A : List of ODC proposed to be transported through NWs / Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route.  
21. Annexure B : Tentative Movement Schedule for ODC  
22. Annexure C : Agreed Movement Schedule for ODC  
23. Annexure D : Draft Memorandum of Understanding  
25. Head Office of IWAI  
26. Regional Offices of IWAI  
26. Nodal Officers
Preface

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), set up in 1986 by an Act of Parliament, has been entrusted the task of development and regulation of the National Waterways. The Authority undertakes infrastructure development and maintenance works on national waterways.

Presently, there are five National Waterways in the country which are as under:

- Haldia - Allahabad stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (1620 km) declared as National Waterway 1 in 1986
- Sadiya - Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river system (891 km) declared as National Waterway 2 in 1988
- Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal (410 km) along with Champakara canal and Udyogmandal canal (205 km) declared as National Waterway 3 in 1993
- Bhadrachalam - Rajamundry stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad Vijaywada stretch of River Krishna along with Kakinada canal, Eluru canal, Comamur canal, Buckingham canal and Kaluvelly tank upto Puducherry (1095 km) declared as National Waterway 4 in 2008
- Talcher Dhamra stretch of Brahmami Kharsua-Dhamra river system along with Geonkhali Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal & portions of Matai river and Mahanadi delta river system between Mangalgadi and Paradip (623 km) declared as National Waterway 5 in 2008

In the last decade, India has been growing @ 8-9 percent per annum and the country is investing heavily in 'core' infrastructure sectors such as power, oil & gas exploration, manufacturing and mining sectors and this is likely to continue in the foreseeable future. This has opened possibility of large movement of Over Dimensional Cargo (ODC) through inland water transport. IWAI has been a preferred mode of transport for ODC over the years and this 'niche' movement is likely to grow.

Since IWAI has made substantial investment in the development of the three operational National Waterways and the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route and this scale of investment is likely to continue, IWAI has decided to make a beginning as far as levying a charge for 'use of waterway' is concerned, by provisionally fixing a consolidated fee of Rs.1.50 per tonne per km for ODC movement commencing from January 1, 2010 as per Section 17(1) of IWAI Act, 1985. Detailed consultations have been held with all stakeholders in this regard.