



EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS

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SEMINAR ORGANIZED FOR AWARENESS ON "NECESSARY COMPLIANCES IN HANDICRAFTS SECTOR" HELD AT RAJIV GANDHI BHAWAN NEW DELHI ON 16TH NOVEMBER'2013

The EPCH organized a seminar on Awareness on Necessary Compliances in Handicrafts Sector on 16th November'2013 at Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi. The following key officials were present during above seminar:-

1. Shri P. C. Pant – Deputy Director O/o Deve. Commnr. (Handicrafts)
2. Shri Ravi Singh – Certification Manager – North India, Bureau Veritas
3. Dr S S Panse– Lead Auditor, Bureau Veritas, Noida
4. Shri. Rajiv Singh – Representative of Cease Fire
5. Ms. Kamkshi Kalia – Representative of SCS India Pvt. Ltd.

Shri P. C. Pant, Deputy Director, O/o Deve. Commnr. (Handicrafts) welcomed the dignitaries and informed about the constant efforts of EPCH to solve the problems of handicrafts exporters being faced by them from time to time. He informed that the Council is organizing seminars, workshops and open houses etc. and today's seminar is on the subject of Necessary Compliances in Handicrafts sector and is an effort in the same direction. He emphasized that the only way to enhance their competitiveness for the exporters is to familiarize them with the necessary compliances.

The seminar was addressed by leading experts from the field of Health & Safety, Fire safety and wood legality verification pertaining to various globally accredited certification schemes. The faculty members stressed on the need of Fire Safety, Health safety norms, medical facility, machine safety, Electrical Safety, Chemical Safety, Hazardous material storage, Personal Protective Equipments that are required to be used in the manufacturing units to provide a healthy and safe work environment and ensure safety of workers. The speakers emphasized on the need of adequate ventilation and lighting for all manufacturing units / factories for health and safety.

The objective of the seminar was to provide the required knowledge to the stakeholders who are engaged in the handicrafts sector. Leading handicrafts exporters and buying agents were present during the seminar. The members discussed that export business is now becoming specialized area of work and a focused approach is required to be successful in today's business environment.

Shri Ravi Singh, Certification Manager, North India, Bureau Veritas briefed the House about the present need of compliance of health and safety measures for handicrafts exporters. He made a detailed presentation on health and safety measures compliance and member exporters present were interacted with him on various issues related to health and safety compliance.

Dr Shiv S Panse, Lead Auditor, Bureau Veritas, Noida interacted with the participants on the various aspects of EU Timber Regulation and stressed on the need of due diligence.

Shri Rajiv Singh, Representative of Cease Fire Co. informed the participants about the necessity for compliance of Fire and Safety measures for all kind of manufacturing units. He made a detailed presentation on the same.

Ms. Kamkshi Kalia, a representative of M/s SCS India Pvt. Ltd. has made detailed presentation of Vriksh scheme explaining about the standards being developed to assess the legality of wood.

After detailed deliberations, the following major questions were asked from the dias:-

Q1. When is Vriksh going to be launched?

Ans. The Scheme is under development and will be launched shortly.

Q2. Paper products are integral to the process as it is a wood produce, and hence should be covered under Vriksh?

Ans. Initially Vriksh would cover solid wooden handicrafts, however, it may include other products in its cope in future.

Q3. What about Global validity of Vriksh certification except EUTR? Whether it will be valid in USA, Australia or LAC region?

Ans. Vriksh is designed to comply with all international regulations.

Q4. Is there any panel of agencies under Vriksh Scheme engaged by the EPCH?

Ans. Yes, To begin with M/s SCS India Pvt. Ltd. would be carrying out auditing and certification, however, many more agencies are likely to join in future.

Q5. List of products of handicrafts covered under Vriksh Scheme?

Ans. List of products would be displayed on VRIKSH website shortly.

Q7. Whether recycled paper is covered under Vriksh Scheme?

Ans. Not yet, recycled wood products not covered in any international certification program.

