

The Maharashtra Forest (Protection of Forest from Fire) Rules, 1982.

Contents

Rules:-

1. Short title and extent
2. Definitions
3. Kindling of fire within one kilometer from a forest prohibited.
4. Precaution to be taken in kindling fire beyond one kilometer from forests
5. Precautions to be taken in burning rabs or preparing ash-manure near forest
6. Restriction on collection of inflammable forest produce or inflammable material outside the boundary of, or from, forest.
7. Precautions to be taken at camping places.
8. Partial operation of the rules in the rainy season.
9. Repeal and saving.

Schedule.

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The Maharashtra Forest (Protection of Forest from Fire) Rules, 1982.

Revenue and Forests Department

Mantralaya, Bombay 400 032.

Dated the 14th October, 1982.

447

Indian Forests Act, 1927.

No. MSC 1074/252359-F-6, - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (h) of section 32 read with clause (d) of section 76 and sub-section (1) of section 78 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927) in its application to the State of Maharashtra, and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Government of Maharashtra, hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

1. Short title and extent.

- (1) These rules may be called the Maharashtra Forest (Protection of Forests from Fire) Rules, 1982.
- (2) They shall extend to the whole of Maharashtra.

2. Definitions.

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires -
 - (a) "**Act**" means the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (XVI of 1927).
 - (b) "**Divisional Forest Officer**" includes, -
 - (i) a Sub-Divisional Forest Officer-in-charge of an independent Forest Sub-Division;
 - (ii) Divisional Manager of the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra; and
 - (iii) Collector (in whose jurisdiction a Forest lies),
 - (c) "**Forests**" means a reserved or protected forest, duly notified as such under the Act;
 - (d) "**Range Forest Officer**" includes, -
 - (i) Project Ranger of the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra; and
 - (ii) Tahsildar (in whose jurisdiction a forest lies),

(e) **"Section"** means a section of the Act;

(f) **"Schedule"** means a schedule appended to these rules.

(2) Words and expressions used but, not defined in these rules shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act.

3. Kindling of fire within one kilometer from a forest prohibited.

No fire shall be kindled elsewhere than in a place used as a human dwelling or in a place appertaining to such dwelling, within a distance of one kilometer from the boundary of the forest, without the previous written permission of a Forest Officer not lower in rank than a Range Forest Officer.

4. Precaution to be taken in kindling fire beyond one kilometer from forests.

No persons shall kindle, keep, carry, or leave any fire burning at any place beyond one kilometer from the boundary of the forest, from which fire may ~~be~~ ^{by} natural means spread to the forest, unless he takes precautions by clearing a fire path not less than 10 meters in width between such place and such boundary or by employing watchers or otherwise, to prevent the fire from so spreading.

5. Precautions to be taken in burning rabs or preparing ash-manure near forest.

No person shall ignite materials for making ash-manure (rab-burning) or clear by fire any and within a distance of one kilometer from the boundary of a forest, unless -

- (1) he gives notice of his intention to burn the rab or clear the land by fire, at least one week before, to the nearest Forest Officer under whose jurisdiction such land lies;
- (2) there is between such boundary and the spot on which such materials are ignited, a space at least ten metres in width which is clear of all vegetation capable of carrying fire from such spot to the forest; and
- (3) he takes all reasonable care-
 - (i) not to ignite when high wind is blowing; or
 - (ii) to prevent fire from spreading to the forest.

6. Restrictions on collection of inflammable forest produce or inflammable material outside the boundary of, or from, forest.

Any person collecting inflammable materials, that is to say, forest produce such as grass, dried leaves, firewood, timber and bamboos, on a land adjoining a forest, and a holder of a pass or permit issued by a Forest Officer or a person exercising his privilege of right to collect such forest produce from a forest shall stack it at a reasonable distance from the forest, or as the case may be, in an open space in the forest as the Divisional Forest Officer may, by general or special order, specify and shall isolate such stacks in such manner that, if it catches fire, shall not spread to the surrounding areas or endanger the forest.

7. Precautions to be taken at camping places.

- (1) No person shall camp in a forest except in a camping place specially cleared and set apart and duly notified for the said purpose by the Divisional Forest Officer;
- (2) A person camping at such camping place may light fire for the purpose of cooking or for any other purpose in such a manner as not to endanger forest or any building, shed and property at the camping place;
- (3) A person camping at the camping place shall, before vacating it, collect in the centre of the camping place, all inflammable material which is to be left behind and shall carefully extinguish all fire.

8. Partial operation of the rules in the rainy season.

Nothing in these rules shall operate during the period commencing on the 15th June and ending on the 31st October.

9. Repeal and Saving.

On the commencement of these rules, the rules specified in the Schedule shall be deemed to have been repealed, so far as they relate to the protection of forests from fire, to the extent specified in the third column thereof;

Provided that anything done or any action taken under the rules so repealed, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of these rules, unless such thing or action is inconsistent with any of the provisions of these rules.

Schedule**(See rule 9)****Rules repealed**

Serial Number	Title	Extent of repeal
1	2	3
(1)	The Bombay Forest Rules, 1942	Chapter II rules 3 to 7
(2)	The Central Provinces and Berar Forest Manual-Vol.I	Chapter XVII rules 86 to 88

By order and in the name of the Government of Maharashtra.

L.H.A.Rego

Deputy Secretary to Government

