

## DRAFT

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR ALLOTMENT AND UTILIZATION OF FIELD FIRING RANGES (FFRs) BY PRIVATE SECTOR

### Appendices

- A** : List of Field Firing Ranges.
- B** : Format for Request for Field Firing Range.
- C** : Emergent Request for Field Firing Range.

### Introduction

1. There is a requirement to develop a robust indigenous defence industry as this is a sine-qua-non for the rapid modernization of the Armed Force in general and the Army in particular. It is therefore imperative that we extend facilities at our disposal to this fledgling industry to strengthen the indigenization process. Towards this end and as a first step, it has been decided that Field Firing Ranges that are available with the Army will be provided to the defence private sector for trials and testing of weapon systems and ammunition.

### Aim

2. To lay down the procedure and guide-lines for allotment and utilisation of Field Firing Ranges to private sector vendors.

### Request for and Allotment of Field Firing Ranges and Subsequent Action by Vendors

3. **Processing of Requests for Field Firing Ranges : Private Sector.** To ensure that requests for Field Firing Ranges are from authorized and established vendors in the defence private sector and for bona-fide purposes, applications for allotment of Field Firing Ranges shall be received and vetted by a nominated Office of Ministry of Defence. The list of Field Firing Ranges for allotment is given at **Appendix A**. The following procedure, along with time-lines as indicated will be followed:-

(a) **Nodal Agency: Army Headquarters.** Deputy Director General (DDG) / Director Procurement Monitoring Cell (P & M Cell) will be the nominated nodal office for processing of request from Private Vendors. For processing of requests of private vendors, the appointment, address and telephone number of the contact persons are as under :-

- (i) Primary Contact - DDG (P&M Cell): 23018191
- (ii) Secondary Contact - Director Procurement:  
23333940/23016884

- (b) **Format.** Private sector vendors will apply in the format as given at **Appendix B.**
- (c) **Receipt of Requests.** All requests for Field Firing Ranges shall reach the nominated office on or before 01 December, for consideration of allotment of Field Firing Ranges for the next training year. Training year commences on 01 July of the year and ends on 30 June of the next year.
- (d) **Intimation of Allotment.** Allotment of Field Firing Ranges to private sector vendors will be intimated by the nominated office to the applicant by 31 March.
- (e) **Action by Private Sector Vendors.** On receipt of intimation of allotment, the vendor shall get in touch with the Local Military Authority (LMA) in charge of the allotted Field Firing Range at the earliest to get acquainted with the local range orders and to carry out formalities that would be specific to the Field Firing Range allotted.
- (f) **Contact Information.** Contact information of the LMA in charge of Field Firing Range allotted shall be intimated to the private sector vendor while issuing out the allotment letter by the nominated office.
- (g) **Emergent Requests.** Emergent requests for allotment of Field Firing Ranges will be forwarded to the nominated office minimum two months in advance from the proposed date of commencement. These requests will thereafter be processed for clearance as per the laid down procedure above. Format of the Emergent Request Form is given at **Appendix C.**
- (h) **Action Incase of Change of Schedule of Trials.** Any change in schedule of trials will be intimated to the nominated office at the earliest and a minimum of two months in advance of the date of the trial, so that re-allocation of Field Firing Ranges can be carried out. The nominated officer will be intimated both in writing as well as telephonically on the telephone numbers indicated above.

### **Field Firing Ranges Handing / Taking Over**

4. **Range Handing/ Taking Over Procedure.** On being allotted the Field Firing Range by the nominated office, the private vendor shall contact the LMA with a copy of range allotment letter by the nominated office. The LMA at the Field Firing Range shall make the private vendor fully conversant with the Field Firing Range Standing Orders and safety guidelines. The Field Firing Range Standing Orders shall be perused by the private vendor. In addition to the Field Firing Range Standing Orders, a separate comprehensive SOP for private vendors shall be prepared by the LMA and copy given to the private vendor. The following will be adhered to :-

(a) **Taking over of Field Firing Range.** Once the private vendor has fully read and understood the FFR Standing Orders and comprehensive SOP for private vendors, the allotted FFR or part of it will be handed over to the private vendor by the LMA.

(b) **Handing Over of Field Firing Range.** The range SOP available with the LMA and adherence to the range safety drills shall be binding on the private vendor. Onus of obtaining clearance from the local civil administration and the police prior to handing over the range back to LMA will be that of the private vendor. Metal scrap generated, if any, would be collected by the local range contractor as per range SOP.

(c) **Communication.** In view of range safety requirements, telephone lines as required will be provided by the LMA through the local exchange. In addition, mobile telephony communication will be used when available as a backup medium of communication. In addition, the private vendor will have at least three hand held UHF Radio Sets of which one shall be given to the LMA as an out station.

(d) **Verification of ID/MI Clearance.** All members of the testing/firing team shall carry valid nationally accepted ID proof. MI clearance shall be obtained as per procedure, where required.

5. **Liability and Compensation.** All liabilities that may accrue once the FFR or designated portion of it is handed over to the private sector vendor, till the time it remains with them will be that of the vendor.

6. **Legal Jurisdiction.** All legal issues that may arise shall be under the jurisdiction of the Court of Law nearest to the FFR, and in the state where it is located.

7. **Decision of LMA.** The decision of the LMA or personnel authorized on its behalf on all aspects will be binding on the private sector vendor while utilizing the allotted Field Firing Range.

8. **Actions at Army Headquarters.** The responsibility of the nominated nodal office shall be restricted to allotment of FFR or part thereof to the private sector.

### **Assistance at the FFRs**

9. Certain additional requirements / assistance are likely to be required by the private sector vendors, which are as follows:-

(a) Survey and Meteorological Data.

(b) Ammunition.

- (c) Equipment and store.
- (d) Proof Testing and Range Tables or construction of Range Tables.
- (e) Administrative Support.
- (f) Medical Cover.

10. As mentioned above, the action of nominated agency shall be restricted to allotment of FFRs to the private sector vendor on 'as is where is' basis. Any additional requirements as listed above shall be obtained by them from the appropriate agencies under their own arrangement. However, limited local facilities in terms of existing infrastructure may be earmarked/ allotted by the LMA as per availability, and at the discretion of the LMA.

11. **Relevant / Additional Guide-Lines.** To increase the chance of allotment and to ensure subsequent smooth conduct of firing/ trials etc, the following guide-lines may be followed by the applicants:-

- (a) Give more than one choice of Field Firing Ranges, and for each choice, give multiple options in respect of dates. Restrict the period of requirement to the minimum possible.
- (b) Be aware of the capabilities of Field Firing Ranges applied for, in terms of weapons/ ammunitions that can be fired/ tested there, as also the infrastructure available.
- (c) Summer months, from May to July are the months when Field Firing Ranges are likely to be available, especially in North and Central India.
- (d) Be well acquainted with the various acts, rules, legal rulings and SOP issued by the LMA that govern the use of Field Firing Ranges.
- (e) Establish contact with LMA immediately on allocation of Field Firing Range to be aware of the various acts and local rules governing the use of the allotted Field Firing Range as also on the issue of availability of local resources.
- (f) Liaise well ahead with various agencies to ensure that additional requirements/assistances are tied up well in time.

**Conclusion**

12. The Government is committed to the success of the indigenization process and the pivotal role that the public sector would play in this national effort. We are certain that the opening up of scarce resource like Field Firing Ranges to the private sector would contribute substantially to the process. To make this fledgling step a success, it is incumbent on the private sector to follow due processes at every point in time to ensure that no untoward incidents/ accidents happen during the course of utilizing Field Firing Ranges, and the safety of men, material and information is not compromised at any time.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, WE -3

Case No : A/\_\_\_\_\_/GS/WE-3

Directorate Gen of Weapons and Equipment  
General Staff Branch  
Integrated HQs of MoD (Army)  
DHQ PO, New Delhi – 110011

December 2015

**Distribution** :-

**REQUEST FOR FIELD FIRING RANGE (FFR)**

1. Name of Firm :
2. Address of Firm :
3. Contact Person (with designation) :
4. Telephone and e-mail details :
5. Brief Reason for Requirement of FFR : (To be appended on a separate sheet)
6. Name of Weapon System(s) / Ammunition (s) :  
to be Tested
7. Name of Preferred Range(s) : (In descending order)
8. Requirement of FFRs (Number of days) :
9. **Dates.**

S/No	Requirement of FFR					Remarks
	Dates FFR Required		Alternate Dates			
	From	To		From	To	
(a)			<b>Priority 2</b>			
			<b>Priority 3</b>			

10. Type(s) and Quantity of Ammunition to be fired :
11. Distance between Gun End and Target for each type of ammunition :
12. Any other details :

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature of Vendor with stamp)

**RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT**

RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED

**Appendix A**

(Refer to Para 3 of SOP)

**LIST OF FIELD FIRING RANGES (FFRs)**

<b>S/No</b>	<b>FFR</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Maximum Range (KM)</b>	<b>Weapons to be Tested*</b>
1.	Bamori (Saugor)	MP	3	Small Arms (SA) weapons 81 mm mortar, Rocket Launcher (RL), Automatic Grenade Launcher (AGL) and 14.5 mm Artillery (Arty) Trainer
2.	Sikkim (HAA Area)	Sikkim	6	All infantry weapons and field guns at limited range
3.	Teesta	West Bengal	10	All infantry (Inf) weapons and field guns at limited range
4.	Balwanta (Nasirabad)	Rajasthan	3	SA weapons 81 mm mortar RL, AGL and 14.5 mm Arty Trainer
5.	Gamrala (HAA Area)	Arunachal Pradesh	6	All infantry weapons and field guns at limited range
6.	Mahajan	Rajasthan	20	Tank and Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV) Gun, Tank and ICV Missiles, All Inf, Army Air Defence (AAD) and Arty weapons
7.	Pokhran	Rajasthan	32	Tank and ICV Gun, Tank and ICV Missiles, All Inf, AAD and Arty weapons
8.	Babina	MP	10	Tank and ICV Gun, Tank and ICV Missiles, All Inf, AAD and Arty weapons

\* **Note** : The list of weapons above are indicative. Local restrictions will apply.

**Appendix C**

(Refer to Para 3(g) of SOP)

**EMERGENT REQUEST FOR FIELD FIRING RANGE (FFR)**

- 1. Name of Firm :
- 2. Address of Firm :
- 3. Contact Person (with designation) :
- 4. Telephone and e-mail details :
- 5. Brief Reason for Requirement of FFR : (To be appended on a separate sheet)
- 6. Brief Reasons for Emergent request of FFRs : (To be appended on a separate sheet)
- 7. Name of Weapon System(s) / Ammunition (s) to be Tested :
- 8. Name of Preferred Range(s) : (In descending order)
- 9. Requirement of FFRs (Number of days) :
- 10. **Dates.**

S/No	Requirement of FFR				Remarks
	Dates FFR Required		Alternate Dates		
	From	To	From	To	
(a)			Priority 2		
			Priority 3		

- 11. Type(s) and Quantity of Ammunition to be fired :
- 12. Distance between Gun End and Target for each type of ammunition :
- 13. Any other details :

Date:

(Signature of Vendor with stamp)

**RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT**

RECOMMENDED/ NOT RECOMMENDED