Title - **CONTROL OF DEFORESTATION**

1.0 **PURPOSE**

To minimise cutting of trees at project site of EPI.

2.0 **SCOPE**

Project sites of EPI, Specially those which are in the forest.

3.0 **RESPONSIBILITY**

Site In-charge / RO In-charge

4.0 **PROCEDURE**

4.1 Trees may be required to be cut at project sites due to normal construction activities with approval of the concerned authorities.

4.2 Mostly a tree cutting plan along with replantation scheme is provided by the customer with approval from the concerned authorities.

4.3 In case where the plan as per 4.2 is not provided by Client, EPI prepares a plan and gets it approved by client/relevant authorities.

4.4 It shall be ensured by Site in-charge that if possible no existing trees are cut. However if it is inevitable, number of trees to be cut shall be restricted to minimum possible.

4.5 Special care shall be taken while executing projects in areas notified as forest, like construction of forest roads or buildings within the forest. Utmost care shall be taken while planning and executing such activities. Option in the following preference shall be exercised:

   4.5.1 If possible no trees are cut.
   4.5.2 Consider alternatives like modified route of road, modified building layout to avoid tree cutting.
   4.5.3 If above two options are not possible, prepare a plan including 4.5.2 so that minimum trees are cut.

4.6. Following steps shall be followed in the process of cutting trees.

   4.6.1 Identify trees to be cut as per approved plan.
   4.6.2 Arrange and execute cutting taking due precaution so that the fallen trees do not damage the surroundings.
   4.6.3 Arrange and execute disposal of cut trees in line with approvals.

4.7 Aforestation shall be done strictly as per the replantation plan. Trees/plants shall be planted and protected till project is handed over to customer.

4.8 In case the aforestation is carried out by customer/other authorized agency, EPI shall perform its role with full responsibility.
5.0 RECORDS
   5.1 Deforestation and afforestation plan

6.0 REFERENCE
   6.1 Clause 4.4.6 of ISO 14001:2004
   6.2 Document EPI/EAR/04, Environmental Aspects
   6.3 Objectives & targets EPI/OT/P/01