**PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB**

**Bill No. 15 of 2025**

**THE PUNJAB ACID CONTROL BILL 2025**

A

Bill

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the storage, distribution, sale, and transport of acids and thereby to prevent the abuse and misuse of acids;

Be it enacted by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab as follows:

**CHAPTER-I**

**PRELIMINARY AND DEFINITIONS**

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.-** (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Acid Control Act, 2025.

 (2) It extends to whole of the Punjab.

 (3) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Definitions.-** In this Act, unless anything repugnant in the subject or context, following expressions shall be understood as, -

 a) "Business premises" means any premises including building, shop, institution, warehouse or any other place being used for storage, distribution, and selling of acid;

 b) "Commissioner" means the officer in charge of the revenue administration of division;

 c) "Dealer" means:

i. a person carrying out or intend to start business related to storage, distribution and sale of acid within the Province and includes a retailer, wholesaler, distributer or any other person deemed to be a dealer within the meaning of this Act; and

ii. any other person declared by the Government to be a Dealer for the purpose of this Act;

 d) "Forms" means the Form appended to this Act;

 e) "Government" means Government of the Punjab;

 f) "Inspector" means any officer or officers authorized by the Licensing Authority for carrying out the purposes of this Act;

 g) "License" means a license issued under section 7 of this Act;

 h) "Licensing Authority" means an officer authorized by the Government to grant, renew or terminate a license under section 5 of this Act;

 i) "Licensee" means a person holding a licence under this Act;

 j) "Province" means Province of the Punjab;

 k) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

 l) "Rules" means rules made under this Act;

 m) "Sale" means sale of acid and includes any transfer by way of gift for business activity;

 n) "Trade" means a business of storing, buying, and selling of acid; and

 o) "Transport" means to move from one place to another within the Punjab through vehicles including beast of burden.

**3. Categories of acid.-** (1) Any substance or mixture of substances, corrosive in nature in a specific concentration and deleterious to human body, and as specified in the Schedule, shall be deemed to be acid for the purpose of this Act.

(2) The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, add to, remove from or reinstate in the Schedule any acid which it may consider fit and proper.

**4. Overriding effect.-** The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force on the subject.

**CHAPTER-II**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**5. Licensing Authority.-** (1) The Deputy Commissioner of a district shall be the Licensing Authority for that district for the purpose of this Act; and/or

(2) Any other officer duly authorized or appointed by the Government by notification in the official Gazette for whole of the Punjab or any specified local area or areas.

**6. Application for license.-** (1) A dealer carrying out or intend to start trade of acid, anywhere in the Province, shall be required to have license for each of his premises from respective Licensing Authority.

(2) A dealer may apply for grant of license in accordance with the prescribed procedure and conditions hereinafter provided, before the concerned Licensing Authority, on Form-I along with a fee of one thousand rupees in shape of stamp paper of such value;

Provided that a dealer already carrying out trade of acid, in any part of the Province, may apply for a license within one hundred and twenty days from the commencement of this Act,

(3) No application for grant of license shall be considered unless accompanied by the following documents:

(a) Copy of CNIC/NTN/STN of the applicant;

(b) i. Passport size recent photographs (in case of individual); or

 ii. Certified copy of resolution of Board of Directors (in case of company); or

(iii) Affidavit (in case of firm)

(c) Description of the premises;

(d) Ownership/title documents or tenancy agreement related to the business premises; and

(f) Any other document required by Licensing Authority for the purpose of this act.

**7. Grant of license.-** (1) On receipt of application, the Licensing Authority may cause inspection of the premises by Inspector, who shall submit a detailed report to the Licensing Authority.

(2) The Licensing Authority, after being satisfied, may grant a license within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such application.

(3) Any such license issued by the Licensing Authority shall remain valid for a period of two years.

(4) In the case of any change in the place of trade within district, the licensee is required to inform the Licensing Authority within seven days of such change, who shall cause inspection of the new business premises in accordance with provisions of this Act.

**8. Renewal of license.-** (1) The dealer shall be required to renew the license in the month of July after every two years, on prescribed form, with a fee of one thousand rupees in the shape of stamp paper of such value.

(2) If the original license is lost or destroyed, the dealer may apply for a duplicate license within fifteen day, with a fee of one thousand rupees in the shape of stamp paper of such value.

**9. Refusal to grant or renew license.-** (1) The Licensing Authority may refuse the grant or renewal of license for being violative of any provision of this Act.

(2) The Licensing Authority, before refusing the grant or renewal of license as provided in sub section 1, shall give an opportunity of being heard to the dealer.

(3) The Licensing Authority shall record the reasons of refusal of an application for grant or renewal of an application in writing and shall communicate the same to the dealer within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such application.

Provided that the Licensing Authority shall refuse to issue a license to a person convicted for an offence punishable under section 332, 336 A and 336 B of the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860).

**10. Appellant Authority.-** (1) If in any case, the Licensing Authority refuses to decide the application for grant or renewal of license, within the period prescribed, the dealer may prefer an appeal before the Commissioner, who shall decide the matter within fourteen days.

(2) If in any case, the Licensing Authority fails to decide the application for grant or renewal of license, within the prescribed period, the dealer may seek directions to this effect from the Commissioner, who shall issue such directions within fourteen days.

(3) The decision or directions issued by the Commissioner in pursuance of sub section 1 and 2 of this section shall be final.

**11. General conditions for license.-** (1) The license shall stand terminated on the death of the licensee or transfer of the place of trade from one district to another.

(2) The license shall be non-transferable.

(3) The licensee shall;

i. observe the prescribed terms and conditions under this Act;

ii. keep the licence at the licensed premises, display at a conspicuous place in the business premises, and shall be bound to produce the same on demand;

iii. not in any case use or allow to be used license for any purpose other than the one for which licence has been issued;

iv. get his licence renewed after every two years in the month of July;

v. intimate the Licensing Authority on closing of the trade;

vi. be required to maintain a record of sale of acid in prescribed manner;

vii. be required to trade under his personal supervision; and

viii. provide the Licensing Authority on quarterly basis with record of stock and sale of acids.

**12. Cancellation or suspension of license.-** (1) The Licensing Authority may cancel or suspend license-

a) if during inspection of a business premises it is found that any provision of this Act has been violated; or

b) if the licensee has been convicted of an offence punishable under section 332, 336 A and 336 B of Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860).

(2) The Licensing Authority before taking any adverse action shall afford an opportunity of being heard to the licensee. An order of cancellation or suspension of license shall be made in writing and shall be communicated to the licensee within fourteen days.

(3) A person aggrieved by action of the Licensing Authority under sub section (1) may prefer an appeal within thirty days before the Commissioner whose decision shall be final.

**CHAPTER-III**

**PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES**

**13. Prohibition of unlicensed trade.-** (1) If a dealer fails to obtain a license within one hundred and twenty days of commencement of this Act, the premises of such trade shall be sealed and penalty may be imposed which shall not be less than rupees one hundred thousand.

Provided that the premises shall be de-sealed on grant of license by the Licensing Authority.

**14. Prohibitions of irregular trade.-** (1) It shall not be lawful for any person to trade in any acid unless-

(i) he is licensed under this Act;

(ii) the trade is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the licence and with any conditions specified therein;

(iii) the trade is carried out on the premises specified in the licence; and

(iv) the trade is carried out by or under the personal supervision of the person named in the licence.

(2) Any dealer violating the provision of subsection 1 shall face a penalty which shall not be less than rupees one hundred thousand and the sealing of business premises.

**15. Prohibition of sale of acid to persons below 18 years of age.-** (1) No acid shall be sold to any person below 18 years of age.

(2) Any dealer violating the provision of subsection 1 shall face a penalty which shall not be less than rupees one hundred thousand and the sealing of business premises.

**16. Prohibition and restriction of possession of acid.-** Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, or any other law for the time being in force, the Government may, by notification, prohibit the possession of any acid in respect of any person or persons or any class or classes of person.

**17. Other violations.-** Any dealer involved in contravention of any provision of this Act shall face a penalty which shall not be less than rupees one hundred thousand or the sealing of business premises or with both.

**18. Power to confiscate acid.-** The Licensing Authority may confiscate stock of acid in case:

i. if he has reasons to believe or suspect that any provision of this Act is not being followed or has been violated by the licensee;

ii. on termination of license;

Provided that on termination of license due to death of licensee, legal heir or successor of trade, as the case may be, of the deceased shall be given opportunity to obtain a license within thirty days. If the heir or successor of business, fails to obtain a license within prescribed period then entire stock of acid shall be confiscated.

iii. on cancellation or suspension of license.

**CHAPTER-IV**

**TRADE AND SALE OF ACID**

**19. Stocking of acid.**- (1) Acid shall be stocked in a licensed business premises.

(2) All traders of acid shall provide a stock report to the Licensing Authority within one hundred and twenty days from the commencement of this Act.

Provided that after the first stock report, the traders shall provide to the Licensing Authority a report of their stock after every three months.

(3) The Licensing Authority shall cause the inspection of the business premises according to the stock report so provided, through a designated Inspector.

(4) During the inspection, if it is found that an incorrect stock report has been submitted, the premises may be sealed and entire stock may be confiscated, in addition to imposing any other penalty.

**20. Stocking of acid in hospitals, laboratories, educational institutions etc.-** (1) All hospitals, laboratories and educational institutions which keep acids shall maintain a record of name, quantity, quality and usage of acid.

(2) Every such institution shall provide record for the inspection of Licensing Authority periodically in accordance with the rules.

**21. Identity of buyer.-** The licensee is required to maintain a record of buyer on Form-II with such particulars:

a) Name of the buyer,

b) Age of the buyer;

c) Name of acid

d) Quantity sold

e) Purpose of buying acid;

f) CNIC or passport number of the buyer; and,

g) Permanent and temporary addresses of the buyer.

**CHAPTER-V**

**PACKAGING, LABELING AND TRANSPORTATION**

**22. Packaging.-** (1) In no case shall acid be sold without proper packaging in an appropriate container, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The packaging of acid shall be so designed as to preclude accidental loss of contents.

(3) The packaging shall be of such nature that can ensure safe handling under normal conditions.

(4) The container shall be so designed that complete or partial emptying may be achieved in a safe way.

(5) The government may prescribe rules for proper packaging of acid.

**23. Labeling.-** It shall not be lawful for a person to trade in any acid unless the packaging and the container is properly labeled in both Urdu and English with;

a) Name of the acid;

b) Concentration level of acid;

c) The word "Acid" printed on it;

d) The word "Dangerous" printed in visible language with symbol of Danger,

e) The hazards involved and precautions to be taken; and

f) The name of the manufacturer with address.

**24. Transportation.-** No person shall transport any acid unless;

a) The vehicle and driver meet road safety standards;

b) The transporter must accompany with him a pass issued by the licensee with a copy of license; and

c) The vehicle has written on it in both Urdu and English languages "Dangerous Acids".

**CHAPTER-VI**

**Miscellaneous**

**25. Bar of legal proceedings.-** No legal proceedings shall lie against Licensing Authority or any officer authorized by him for damages for any act done in good faith, or ordered to be done, in pursuance of any provision of this Act.

**26. Maintenance of record of licenses.-** The Licensing Authority shall maintain a record of the applications for grant and renewal of licenses on Form-III.

**27. Power to inspect acid and register.-** The Licensing Authority or designated Inspector on his behalf may at any time visit the business premises where trade of acid is carried out and may inspect all acids found therein and the registers containing details of such stock.

**28. Public awareness.-** The Government shall make arrangements of public awareness through posters, notice boards, newspapers and electronic media to:

a) Encourage compliance to the provisions of this Act;

b) Communicate the effects of acid attacks on human beings; and

c) The responsibilities of the licensee and buyers.

**29. Power to make rules.-** (1) In furtherance of the objectives of this Act, the Government may, by notification in official Gazette, make rules.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the Government may make rules:

a) determining the concentration level of each acid;

b) providing guidelines for packaging requirements of acids;

c) providing guidelines for labeling requirements of acids;

d) providing guidelines for transportation of acids; and

e) specifying health and safety standards for storage, distribution, sale and transportation of acid.

**THE SCHEDULE**

[See Section 3 (1)]

(In order of corrosiveness of acid)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sr. No. | Name of Acid |
|  | NITRIC ACID |
|  | AQUA REGIA |
|  | SULFURIC ACID |
|  | HYDROCHLORIC ACID |
|  | PHOSPHORIC ACID |
|  | PERCHLORIC ACID |
|  | HYDROIODIC ACID |
|  | HYDROBROMIC ACID |
|  | ACETIC ACID |
|  | FORMIC ACIDS |
|  | HYDROFLUORIC ACID |
|  | FORMALDEHYDE |
|  | CHROMIC ACID |
|  | SODIUM HYDROXIDE |
|  | POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE |
|  | BARRIUM HYDROXIDE |
|  | STRONCIUM HYDROXIDE |
|  | AMIDE, METAL |
|  | ACETYL CHLORIDE |
|  | ANHYDROUS PHENOLS |
|  | CAUSTIC SODA |
|  | CARBOLIC ACID |
|  | CALCIUM HYDROXIDE |
|  | ANHYDROUS HALOGENS (F, Cl, Br, I) |
|  | ZINC CHLORIDE |
|  | SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE |
|  | CAUSTIC POTASH |
|  | DIMETHYL SULFATE |
|  | BENZYL CHLOFORMATE |
|  | SODIUM HYDRIDE |

**FORM-I**

[See section 6(2)]

To

The Deputy Commissioner/Licensing Authority,

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Subject: APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LICENCE FOR THE TRADE OF ACID

Sir,

I (Applicant Name/Company Name/Firm Name) having CNIC/NTN No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with a contact number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_required a license for trade of acid in respect to the business premises (Address of Premises) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I intend to carry on the trade of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. I may kindly be permitted and granted a licence for carrying on the said trade for two years (Years).

3. I under-take to abide by all the rules applicable to the subject matter, as directed and conveyed by the Government of the Punjab from time to time.

4. I assure that I will keep only the following acids in the quantity and quality mentioned against each [mention the name, quantity and quality of each acid] or as may be allowed:-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sr. No. | Name of the Acid | Quality (Concentration) | Quantity |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

5. After the expiry of the licence period, I will myself apply for renewal of the licence.

6. I will observe all the conditions for grant of license that are;

i. observe the prescribed terms and conditions under this Act;

ii. keep the licence at the licensed premises, displayed at a conspicuous place in the business premises, and shall bound to produce the same on demand,

iii. not in any case use or allow to be used license for any purpose other than the one for which it has been issued;

iv. get my licence renewed after every two years in the month of July;

v. intimate the Licensing Authority on closing of the trade;

vi. required to maintain a record of sale of acid in prescribed manner,

vii. required to trade under my personal supervision; and

viii. provide the Licensing Authority on quarterly basis with record of stock and sale of acids.

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following documents are enclosed:

(a) Copy of CNIC of the applicant;

(b)

i. Passport size recent photographs (in case of individual); or

ii. Certified copy of resolution of Board of Directors (in case of company); or

iii. Affidavit (in case of firm)

(c) Description of the premises;

(d) Title of the property; and

(e) Tenancy Agreement, if any.

**FORM-II**

[See section 21]

Name of the licensee.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ License No.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of acid

Quantity sold

Balance in stock

Date of sale

Name and addresses of purchaser with CNIC or Passport No.

Purpose for which the acid was sold

Signature and thumb impression of the purchaser

Signature of licensee

**FORM-III**

[See section 26]

[Name of District]

Name and address of the applicant

License No. [if granted]

Date of issue

License renewed on-------------------or otherwise

Reasons for rejection of license [in case of rejection]

**STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS**

Incidents of throwing acids, commonly known as acid attacks, are common in Province of the Punjab. In most of such incidents, the victims are women whose life is irreparably damaged. The easy availability of acid facilitates the perpetration of this crime.

2. Acid is used for variety of purposes in the Province. However, there is no proper legislation to regulate its sale and purchase. Any person can buy it from market. There is an urgent need to introduce a law to regulate the distribution, sale, storage and transportation aspects of acid.

3. The Bill seeks to achieve the above-mentioned objectives.

 **MS HINA PARVEZ BUTT**

 **MPA (W-302)**

 **MEMBER INCHARGE**

**Lahore: CH AMER HABIB**

**January 21, 2025 Secretary General**