



SBCA Introduces Reforms by Relaxing Procedures for Acquiring Construction Permits

As a first step towards reforms aimed at facilitating the acquiring of construction permits for citizens, the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) has eased out the procedure for the approval and issuance of Construction Permits for residential houses and non-obnoxious warehouses (Category-I buildings). This has been done on the directive of the Chief Minister of Sindh and with technical support from the World Bank. As part of this ground-breaking reform, the requirement of interdepartmental No Objection Certificates (NOCs), and other NOCs of Karachi Water & Sewerage Board (KW&SB), Sindh Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), and Excise & Taxation Department Government of Sindh have been waived off.

For this first in a series of reforms, the procedures and the timeline for approvals of construction permits for residential houses and non-obnoxious warehouses have been revisited. On the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Building & Town Planning Regulations, notifications regarding these amendments in procedures and timeline have been published, according to which every case of construction permit falling within Category-I shall be approved and issued in a single-stage procedure within a period of 30 days.

The Category-I of the buildings includes;

- (i) The residential bungalows upto 399 Sq.yds. having (G+1) floors.
- (ii) Any other building on plot upto 120 Sq.yds. with height upto 33 ft.
- (iii) Any non-obnoxious warehouse having height upto 35 ft. and or having plot upto 1100 sq.yds.

The Director General, SBCA Mr. Agha Maqsood Abbas has further maintained that the given timeline for issuance of the construction / completion permits shall be observed in letter and spirit.

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