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DPIIT

Explosives rules set a 5 kg, 3-year permission for R&D labs

DPIIT's G.S.R. 887(E), the Explosives (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, sets a permission for R&D laboratories and new provisions for defence explosives.

THE MINISTRY OF Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) issued notification G.S.R. 887(E), dated October 14, 2026, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 816 of October 14, 2026. By it, the Central Government makes the Explosives (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, under sections 5 and 7 of the Explosives Act, 1884, amending the Explosives Rules, 2008 in sixteen paragraphs after the short title. The

rules set a permission for research and development laboratories, insert sub-clauses for an academic institution, a foreign company and a partnership in clause (37) of rule 2, and add provisions for defence explosives, the Defence Research and Development Organisation and Defence Public Sector Undertakings. They come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. The notification is signed by Dr. Kajal, Jt. Secy., under F. No. 2(3)/2019-Expl-Part (5).

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Explosives (Second Amendment)
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Rule 2 gains clause (44A), defining a "research and development laboratory" as a laboratory for manufacturing, storage and use of explosives for research and development purposes set up by a company, firm, partnership, society, startup, or academic institution. Sub-rule (1) of rule 9 is substituted to read "manufacture of explosive in small quantities in research and development laboratory for research and development purpose with prior permission sought through an application under Form AE-13 and granted by the Chief Controller under Form LE-13, under conditions as may be imposed by him." A proviso caps the total quantity of explosives manufactured, stored, used, supplied or transported as samples, or deployed for tests or trials in the laboratory premises at five kilograms at any one time. Form LE-13 states that the permission shall remain valid till 3 years, up to a date it leaves blank, and Schedule IV, Part 1 gains article 13 for the permission, with LE-13 and the Chief Controller of Explosives. Where the application is made by a person other than an individual, Form AE-13's notes ask for the name and address of the occupier as per rule 2 and of the directors, partners or members, with specimen signatures of the authorized person. In clause (37) of rule 2, three sub-clauses are inserted after sub-clause (e): (f) "academic institution, the head of the institution, the Vice-Chancellor, Director, Principal, or Dean (by whatever name called) or an individual nominated by the head of the institution"; (g) for a foreign company, the director residing in India under section 149 of the Companies Act, 2013; and (h) for a partnership, a partner residing in India under section 7 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

Serial number 27 is inserted in the Table in rule 113 for the permission, with two lists of documents. One has ten, among them a detailed project report, a safety management plan and a site and layout plan of the proposed laboratory as per STEC Pamphlet 3. The other has eleven, among them a completion certificate duly signed by the applicant, a no objection certificate issued by district authority in the format AE-12, and a self-declaration that construction of the laboratory complies with STEC Pamphlet 3 or any other relevant STEC pamphlet; the notification does not name the Table's columns. Under the provisos substituted in rule 6(1), nothing in rule 6

applies to the manufacture, storage, use, transport, testing and trials of new explosive compositions, not exceeding five kilograms in total explosives at the premises at any one time, for the purpose of research and development and not for commercial production, sale, supply of samples to third parties or field trials, at a research and development laboratory holding a valid permission under rule 9(1) and approved under the procedure given in clause (17) of rule 6. That permission does not exempt the holder from obtaining authorization under rule 6 before any commercial manufacture, sale or field trial of the explosive composition so developed. Under the substituted rule 118(1), a permission granted under rule 9(1) stands cancelled if the holder ceases to have any right for the lawful possession of the premises, is convicted and sentenced or ordered to execute a bond as the sub-rule sets out, or if the premises or manufacturing facilities are leased to any other person, firm, company or society; it also stands cancelled if the no objection certificate is cancelled in accordance with rule 115. It is liable to be suspended or cancelled by the licensing authority for any contravention of the Act, the rules or its conditions, or by order of the Central Government; before a suspension or cancellation under the rule, the holder must be given an opportunity of being heard.

For defence explosives, rule 2 gains clause (15A): "defence explosive" means explosives which are meant for defence sector including those manufactured by private manufacturers. In rule 3(2)(a), the words "Defence Research and Development Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings" are inserted after the word "Union". The first of the substituted provisos to rule 6(1) says nothing in rule 6 applies to the manufacture of explosives for the armed forces of the Union or other establishments of the Ministry of Defence, the Defence Research and Development Organisation or Defence Public Sector Undertakings; a further proviso says this does not apply to private manufacturers of defence explosives. New provisos to rules 10(1)(c), 21(3) and 81 say those manufacturers are not covered by each rule's first proviso and are subject to the restrictions on manufacture, the requirements, or the construction requirements under that rule. A substituted clause (ix) of rule 6(17) exempts from that sub-rule field trials by research and development laboratories held in the premises of the Armed Forces of the Union, establishments of the Ministry of Defence, the Defence Research and Development Organisation or Defence Public Sector Undertakings, subject to the concurrence and clearance of the relevant entity. Rule 5 gains sub-rule (4): notwithstanding sub-rule (3), safety distances for the manufacture, storage, or use of defence explosives are as provided in the Storage and Transport of Explosives Committee Pamphlet, the guidelines issued by Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety under the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The sub-rule does not apply, for three years from the date of publication of the provision, to premises existing on that date within the approved premises of licences granted under the rules, but it applies on any expansion of licensed capacity, introduction of new processes, manufacture of explosives of a higher Hazard Division, or transfer of the licence under rule 108.

Rule 100(1) now says the fee payable under the rules to the Chief Controller, Controller, or District Magistrate shall be paid by electronic means. In the heading of Schedule IV, Part 2, the words "with a separate discounted schedule of fees for Micro enterprise, Small Enterprise, startup or women-led enterprise" are inserted after "User Fee Notice (Explosives)". An Explanation added

to Part 2, for that Part and serial no. 9 (a) of Form AE-13, gives micro and small enterprises their meanings under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, a startup its meaning under notification G.S.R. 108 (E), dated February 4, 2026, as amended from time to time, and defines a woman-led enterprise as "an enterprise owned and controlled by a woman holding a minimum financial interest of 51 per cent. of the capital". The notification does not state the fee for the permission, which Form LE-13 leaves blank, or any discounted fee. A draft was published as G.S.R. 143(E), dated February 25, 2026, inviting objections and suggestions within thirty days of February 25, 2026, when copies were made available to the public, and the Central Government considered those received; the notification does not say how the final rules differ from the draft. It does not reproduce the STEC Pamphlets or restate the first provisos to rules 10(1)(c), 21(3) and 81, and it contains no transitional provision for the substituted rule 9(1).

Issued by	Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)
Document	Notification G.S.R. 887(E), the Explosives (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026
Dated	October 14, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 816, October 14, 2026
Takes effect	On the date of their publication in the Official Gazette
Amends	Explosives Rules, 2008, under sections 5 and 7 of the Explosives Act, 1884
Covers	Research and development laboratories set up by a company, firm, partnership, society, startup, or academic institution; defence explosives, including those manufactured by private manufacturers; fees payable under the rules; cancellation and suspension of licences and permissions under rule 118
Application and permission	Form AE-13 (application) and Form LE-13 (permission), granted by the Chief Controller
Quantity limit	Five kilograms of explosives at any one time in the laboratory premises
Validity of the permission	Till 3 years, up to a date entered in Form LE-13
Fee for the permission	Not stated; Form LE-13 leaves it blank. Fees under the rules are paid by electronic means
Rule 2, clause (37)(f)	Academic institution, the head of the institution, the Vice-Chancellor, Director, Principal, or Dean (by whatever name called) or an individual

	nominated by the head of the institution
Rule 2, clause (37)(g)	For a foreign company, the director residing in India under section 149 of the Companies Act, 2013
Rule 2, clause (37)(h)	For a partnership, a partner residing in India under section 7 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008
Safety distances for defence explosives	As provided in the Storage and Transport of Explosives Committee Pamphlet; not applicable for three years to premises existing within the approved premises of licences
Draft	G.S.R. 143(E), February 25, 2026
Signed by	Dr. Kajal, Jt. Secy.

The 17 paragraphs of the Explosives (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026

Paragraph	Rule changed	What changes
1	Short title and commencement	Names the rules the Explosives (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, in force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2	Rule 2	Inserts clause (15A), "defence explosive"; inserts sub-clauses (f) academic institution, (g) foreign company and (h) partnership in clause (37), after sub-clause (e); inserts clause (44A), "research and development laboratory".
3	Rule 3(2)(a)	Inserts "Defence Research and Development Organisation, Defence Public Sector Undertakings" after the word "Union".
4	Rule 5	Inserts sub-rule (4): notwithstanding sub-rule (3), safety distances for defence explosives are as provided in the Storage and Transport of Explosives Committee Pamphlet. It does not apply for three years to premises existing within the approved premises of licences, but applies on expansion of licensed capacity, new processes, a higher Hazard Division or transfer of the licence under rule 108.
5	Rule 6(1) and 6(17)(ix)	In 6(1), "in the official website of the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation" becomes "by the Central Government in the Official Gazette", and the proviso is replaced by provisos under which rule 6 does not apply to manufacture for the armed forces, Ministry of Defence establishments, the Defence Research and Development Organisation or Defence Public Sector Undertakings (clause (a) of the first proviso does not apply to private manufacturers of defence explosives), or to research and development work on new compositions up to five kilograms at a laboratory with a rule 9(1) permission, approved under clause (17); the permission does not exempt the holder from authorization before commercial manufacture, sale or field trial. Clause (ix) of 6(17) is substituted: field trials by research and development laboratories at those entities' premises, with their concurrence and clearance, are exempt from the sub-rule.

6	Rule 9(1)	Substituted: manufacture of explosive in small quantities in a research and development laboratory for research and development purpose with prior permission, applied for in Form AE-13 and granted by the Chief Controller in Form LE-13, under conditions he may impose. A proviso caps the total at five kilograms at any one time.
7	Rule 10(1)(c)	New proviso: private manufacturers of defence explosives are not covered by the first proviso and are subject to the restrictions on manufacture under the rule.
8	Rule 21(3)	New proviso: private manufacturers of defence explosives are not covered by the first proviso and are subject to the requirements under the rule.
9	Rule 24(1) and (3)	Inserts "or a permission under sub-rule (1) of rule 9" after "these rules", and "or permission holder" after "licensee".
10	Rule 81	New proviso: private manufacturers of defence explosives are not covered by the first proviso and are subject to the construction requirements under the rule.
11	Rule 100(1)	Substituted: fees payable to the Chief Controller, Controller, or District Magistrate are paid by electronic means.
12	Rule 101(1) and (3)	Inserts "or a permission under sub-rule (1) of rule 9" after "under these rules"; "The Chief" becomes "Wherever applicable, the Chief".
13	Rule 107(1) and (3)	Inserts "or a permission granted under sub-rule (1) of rule 9" after "for grant of license", and "or for which a permission has been granted under sub-rule (1) of rule 9" after "import of explosives".
14	Rule 113, Table	Inserts serial number 27, for the permission for manufacturing, storage, usage, supply or transport of samples, testing, and trial of explosives not exceeding 5 kg on the premises for research and development laboratories, with the entries 13 and LE-13, a list of ten documents and a list of eleven.
15	Rule 118	The marginal heading adds "or permission" after "license". Sub-rules (1), (3) and (4) are substituted to cover permissions granted under rule 9(1): when a licence or permission stands cancelled or is liable to be suspended or cancelled, a hearing before suspension or cancellation, service of an order by post, and suspension not debarring an application for further renewal. Sub-rule (5) adds "or permission, as the case may be" after "licence".
16	Schedule IV, Parts 1 and 2	Part 1 gains article 13: the permission, LE-13, Chief Controller of Explosives. In Part 2, "with a separate discounted schedule of fees for Micro enterprise, Small Enterprise, startup or women-led enterprise" is inserted in the heading, and an Explanation after item D and its table defines the four terms for Part 2 and serial no. 9 (a) of Form AE-13.
17	Schedule V, Parts 1 and 3	Inserts Form AE-13, the application, after Form AE-12, and Form LE-13, the permission, after Form LE-11A.

[The notification](#) (PDF, 1.4 MB)

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