WHEREAS, M/s. Exide Industries Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as the industry) located at 91, New Chord Road, P.O.- Athpur, Shyamnagar, P.S.- Jagatdal, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin-743 128 is a lead acid battery (industrial and automotive) manufacturing unit with production capacity - 1,50,000 pcs./month.

AND WHEREAS, the industry is a SPI unit and is monitored by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) monthly. Recent analysis reports for stack sampling as well as effluent sampling have met the prescribed standards, but the industry has some environmental problems as follows:

Observation was made during inspection on 31/05/2016:

- Four lead melting pots were observed in operation which are not equipped with adequate Air Pollution Control Device.
- Lead bearing wastes (dross/ash etc.) were observed kept in several areas which are not designated as hazardous waste storage areas.
- A few industrial and automotive casting machines are not equipped with any Air Pollution Control Device.
- Battery charging was being done without the installation of Air Pollution Control Device and without obtaining Consent to Operate of the Board.

AND WHEREAS, the industry was directed by the Barrackpore Regional Office of the Board vide letter dated 02.06.2016 to install adequate pollution control devices and also to stop the charging operation before installation of pollution control system and before getting Consent to Operate.

AND WHEREAS, the industry submitted a reply on 14.06.2016 to the above letter of the Board stating that they will install necessary air pollution control systems within September, 2016.

AND WHEREAS, inspection of the industry was again conducted on 08/07/2016 & 28/07/2016 wherein it was observed that the industry was continuing with the operation of the four lead melting pots, casting machines and battery charging system without installing the pollution control systems.

AND WHEREAS, effluent samples were collected during inspection on 08/07/2016. The analysis report shows that effluent collected from ETP outlet has complied with permissible limits, but the sample collected from the pit near guest house failed to meet the standard for Lead (value obtained 0.17 mg/l against permissible limit of 0.1mg/l). The industry representative admitted that they have not disclosed this outlet in the Consent to Operate application.

AND WHEREAS, the Board received complaint against the industry from the Chairman, Bhatpara Municipality on 22.03.2016 20.07.2016 for causing air/water pollution in the surroundings.

AND WHEREAS, the industry was called for a hearing on 26/02/2016 for failing to comply with the effluent discharge standards and direction was issued to the industry for taking necessary action in order to comply with the environmental norms with imposition of a Bank Guarantee as an assurance. The industry submitted Bank Guarantee of Rs. 5.00 lakh which is valid upto 18/05/2017.
AND WHEREAS, the Consent to Operate of the industry is valid upto 31/12/2018.

AND WHEREAS, the industry was again called for a hearing at the Head office of the Board on 10/08/2016 for the non-compliance of environmental norms as recorded above.

AND WHEREAS, the representatives of the industry appearing in the hearing agreed with the above mentioned observations of the Board. They submitted that the outlet near guest house is for rain water only, but contamination with lead occurred due to surface run off. They mentioned that henceforth no effluent will be discharged in untreated condition. They also submitted that installation of APCD for the battery charging section and four lead smelting pots will be completed by 30/09/2016 and APCD for industrial casting machines by 31/08/2016. They would submit detail record of hazardous waste generation by 20/08/2016. Subsequently the industry has submitted the record of hazardous waste generation to the Waste Management Cell of the Board.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the above, M/s. Exide Industries Ltd. located at 91, New Chord Road, P.O.- Athpur, Shyamnagar, P.S.- Jagatdal, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin-743 128 is hereby directed as follows:-

1. That, the industry shall ensure that no effluent from the unit premises is discharged in untreated condition.

2. That, the industry shall complete installation work of air pollution control device for four lead smelting pots and battery charging section positively by 30/09/2016.

3. That, the industry shall complete installation work of air pollution control device for industrial casting machines positively by 15/09/2016.

4. That, the industry shall not enhance production capacity without obtaining prior permission from the Board.

5. That, the industry shall execute a fresh Bank Guarantee (proforma enclosed) of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh) only valid for twelve (12) months within fifteen [15] days from the date of issuance of this direction in favour of the WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD as an assurance to comply with the environmental norms as well as Board’s direction in future.

The Environmental Engineer, Barrackpore Regional Office of the Board is requested to oversee the compliance of this direction.

This direction is issued in exercise of the powers conferred under the provision of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder after being approved by the Competent Authority.

By Order,

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Operation & Execution Cell
West Bengal Pollution Control Board