

F.No.: 8-A/ Policy/ (Recog)/2009/RCI
Rehabilitation Council of India
A Statutory Body Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Govt. of India

B-22, Qutab Institutional Area
New Delhi – 110016
Date: 14 October, 2025

Office Memorandum

Subject: Simplifying and deregulating the Recognition Framework of the Rehabilitation Council of India.

In view of the Government's commitment to improve the 'Ease of Doing Business' and in the spirit of the Jan Vishwas Act to enhance Trust-Based Governance, the following simplification and deregulation measures are being undertaken in the Recognition Framework of the Rehabilitation Council of India. The main intention of these measures is to bring down the regulatory burden and cost of compliance; and use of technology for easier & transparent compliance.

1. Centres of Excellence of RCI:

To encourage quality and high standards in Rehabilitation Education, the following institutes/ Universities running RCI approved courses will be considered as 'Centre of Excellence' of RCI:

- a) National Institutes, Composite Regional Centres (CRCs), and Regional Centres (RCs) under the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- b) Central Universities and State Universities
- c) State and Central Govt. Organisations
- d) Universities which come in the latest Top 100 ranking Universities of the National Institutional Framework Ranking (NIRF), Colleges which come in latest Top 100 ranking Colleges in India, as well as Institutes and Universities which come under latest Category- A of the NIRF
- e) The 'Institutes of Eminence' as categorised by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- f) Any other institute which wants to be categorised as 'Centre of Excellence' under RCI will have to fulfil the parameters which will be issued in a separate guideline.

2. Assessment/Inspections – Role of Visiting Experts

- a) A new pool of visiting experts will be created. Every expert will have to undergo mandatory training and have active CRR number, and do a live eKYC

- b) Existing faculty (regular/contractual, not Guest faculty) working continuously for more than a year at a 'Centre of Excellence' of RCI will be involved as 'visiting expert' Panel of visiting experts will be automatically updated from the institution's faculty list based on the willingness.
- c) Those who had earlier worked at one or more Centres of Excellence for a combined period of more than 2 years can also be involved.
- d) In joint inspection, one of the experts deputed should know the local language of the region where the institute is being inspected.
- e) Inspection report to be filled before discontinuing the VC link for inspection, and the ink signed and scanned copy to be emailed to the Council immediately before discontinuing the link, followed by the original hardcopy.
- f) No extra documents to be attached with the inspection report
- g) Incomplete reports / invalid information in the report submitted will debar the visiting expert for five years
- h) Experts denying/delaying inspection more than two times will be debarred for five years from the inspection or any other work of RCI.

3. Mandatory requirements for Institutions

- a) Common NOC from the State Govt. will be considered for all approved programmes and will be regarded as valid for fresh institutes. In case of any doubt or complaints or if the Council requires, the concerned NOC issuing authority can be asked for a fresh enquiry or report.
- b) No NOC will be required for extension proposals, however valid and active registration required as per Section 50 of the RPwD Act will be mandatory
- c) Own special/ inclusive schools/ clinics will be essential, preferably on the campus or at a maximum of two km. range.
- d) Relaxations will be considered for the 'Centres of Excellence' of RCI.
- e) Institutes denying inspection will be debarred for two years from the inspection or any other work of RCI, and will not be listed in the admissions calendar for two years, and any new admissions will be subject to Inspection by RCI
- f) The majority of inspections shall be covered through online (VC). For monitoring/ surprise/ enhancement of seats/ complaint/ etc. the Council may choose to do inspection/ verification in Hybrid Mode (one expert physical + other VC from the office).
- g) In case of inspections of multiple courses at a given institute, a common team of visiting experts will be deputed in a VC or hybrid mode to inspect all said courses in one go. In case of Hybrid inspection, only one expert will go physically, and others will be joined online.
- h) The video recording of the verification process will serve as the official record, ensuring transparency, and will be securely stored centrally.



- i) All records, like curriculum transaction, practicals, UDID, Alumni, etc. to be maintained regularly as per RCI norms.
- j) Fees for the process of approvals, Inspection and Approval are reduced for fresh/extension approvals from the year 2026-27 as follows :

S.No.	Head	Fee
1	Processing fee (For each Fresh / Extension course)	10,000/-
2	Inspection fee - Certificate / Diploma - Degree / PG Diploma - Master & above	20,000/-
3	Approval fee - Certificate / Diploma - Degree / PG Diploma - Master & above	30,000/-

- k) No re-inspection fees will be charged for first re-inspection. In case course is not approved even after re-inspection, it will be treated as a fresh case, for which all fees as mentioned in above table will be applicable.
- l) Process and fees for Enhancement of seats will be same as extension of approval. However, no processing fees and approval fees will be charged and only inspection fees will be required.

4. Improvement Notice

- a) After conducting an inspection, if any minor shortcoming is noticed, an 'Improvement Notice' will be issued to the concerned institution, and they will be given a time of 4 weeks to comply with the shortcomings, provided the scores are above 50% in the parameter.
- b) The re-inspection will be conducted suo-moto, and the institutes need not apply for re-inspection, as is the current practice.
- c) The re-inspection will be conducted only on those parameters that were identified as lacking or needing improvement during the first inspection.
- d) The institute which does not want the said re-inspection will have to communicate in writing that it is withdrawing the proposal for Fresh/ Extension/ enhancement of seats.
- e) In case of major violation of RCI norms/ non-attending classes/ lack of essential facilities etc. observed during surprise inspection, there will be no improvement notice, but a show cause notice will be issued as per rules.

5. Duration of Approvals

- a) Approvals to all 'Centre of Excellence' of RCI will be granted for seven years, and other institutions will be granted for five years. All institutions are to maintain the standards as per norms to continue.
- b) Institutions approved from/till 2025-26 will be given automatic extension of approval for 4 extra years for 'Centre of Excellence' of RCI and 2 years for other institutions as earlier they were granted approval for three years.

Digital platform is being strengthened for all recognition-related activities and monitoring purposes like communication and grievance redressals, updation of details for Institutes/ faculty, Curriculum transaction, etc.

This OM supersedes all previous orders/circulars/public notices issued in this regard.


(Ashish Thakare)
Member Secretary

To,
Heads of all RCI approved Institutions

Copy for information to:

- (i) The Sr. PPS to the Secretary, DEPwD & Chairperson, RCI
- (ii) PA to Member Secretary, RCI
- (iii) DD(A) / DD(T) / DD(P)
- (iv) Computer Section, RCI to upload on website.