

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS BRIEF

- Unfavourable climatic and meteorological conditions that generally prevail in the NCR during Winters and farm fires have begun to adversely impact the air quality in the region.
- With forecasts of the average Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi likely to be in “Poor” and “Very Poor” Categories, Stage-I and Stage-II of the revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) were invoked by the Commission on 05.10.2022 and 19.10.2022 respectively.
- All stakeholders (industrial houses, commercial establishments, construction agencies, State Govt. / GNCTD agencies, ULBs in NCR and public at large etc.), from time to time, were informed and sensitised about the preventive, mitigative and restrictive actions required to be taken under the GRAP.
- Besides GRAP and a comprehensive “Policy to curb air pollution in NCR”, various statutory directions, advisories and orders including have been issued by the Commission from time to time for appropriate measures by various agencies concerned.
- The standard approved fuel list for NCR bans use of heavily polluting fuels like coal, Furnace Oil etc. Biomass fuels with stricter emission norms have however been permitted in NCR, outside the territorial jurisdiction of GNCTD considering the huge availability and need to promote environmentally sustainable use of biomass. The Commission in association with the State Govts. has launched a drive for shifting all industries in NCR to cleaner fuels as per approved list.
- Responding to the directions for ban on coal and other polluting fuels in industrial applications, the current status is as under:

	Haryana NCR	UP NCR	Rajasthan NCR	NCT of Delhi	Total in NCR
No. of fuel-based industries	2988	2273	525	1784	7570
No. of industries shifted to approved fuels	2718	1786	422	1784	6710
Balance	270	487	103	-	860

- Of the balance industrial units, 32 coal based units (9 in Haryana and 23 in UP) have been closed down permanently.
- Closure directions have also been issued to 45 coal based industrial units in Rajasthan.
- 48 units (8 in Haryana and 40 in UP) have temporarily suspended their operations till these units are converted to approved fuels.
- With the prime objective to abate the air pollution levels in the NCR, the Commission has intensified *incognito* field inspections through Flying Squads towards better enforcement and monitoring of compliance of all relevant air pollution related statutes and guidelines.
- The focus of incognito inspections at this stage has been on compliance of statutory directions of the Commission particularly for the following:
 - Use of only “approved fuels” in NCR
 - Adherence to emission standards in industries and effectiveness of Emission Control Devices (ECD)
 - Enforcement and effectiveness of dust control measures in C&D activities and road projects
 - Enforcement of regulations on use of DG Sets
 - Effective actions as per the GRAP
- Since invoking the GRAP Stage-I w.e.f. 06.10.2022, a total of 472 incognito inspections have been carried out by the Commission in industrial areas and construction projects across NCR and 52 grossly violating units/ projects have been issued closure orders.
- **Closure orders** have been issued to **24 grossly violating industrial units**. Of these, 05 industrial units were still found using coal and other unapproved polluting fuels.
- C&D projects on plot area greater than 500 sq. mtr. are required to register on a web portal for remote online monitoring, besides adhering to various directions of CAQM, rules and guidelines related to dust mitigating measures. **28 project sites** still not registered on the web portal and / or violating the statutory directions, dust control norms and related guidelines have been **issued closure directions** by the Commission.
- Closure directions also mandate imposition of deterrent Environment Compensation charges, besides action for prosecution under the provisions of the CAQM Act.
- The Commission again urges all stakeholders to comply with and follow the statutory directions of the Commission to avoid closure notices and/ or penal action and contribute towards a better air quality for NCR.
