

**COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS
17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building)
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001**

F.No. A-110018/01/2021-CAQM/7267-7298 Dated: 17th March, 2022

Subject: Directions under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 – Standards for emissions in industrial processes in NCR using bio-mass fuels.

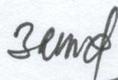
WHEREAS, the emissions from industries using polluting fuels like coal etc. have serious adverse impact on air quality in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas and shifting of Industries to PNG/cleaner fuels has been a priority for the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas;

2. WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 03.12.2021 in the matter "Aditya Dubey & Anr. Vs Union of India & Ors." also directed for proposal to be submitted to switch over all the industries to PNG/ cleaner fuels in a time-bound manner;

3. WHEREAS, pursuant to Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions in the above referred matter dated 10.12.2021 directing the Commission to examine requests of various industries and organisations about relaxation of conditions imposed by virtue of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Orders or by the Directions/ Orders of the Commission, Direction No. 49 was issued in respect of industries in NCR which have still not shifted to PNG / cleaner fuels, restricting the operations of such industries only for 5 days in a week;

4. WHEREAS, representations were received from various organizations/ associations/ federations/ entities and individuals for permitting use of biomass fuels in addition to PNG, citing that biomass fuels are much more environment friendly than fossil fuels like HSD and Coal etc;

5. WHEREAS, an analysis of PM emissions from industries presently using biomass fuels for boiler operations indicates that biomass fuels are much superior than conventional fossil fuels like coal, diesel oil etc. in terms of carbon emissions, the PM emissions are much controlled and that the advantages of using such fuels far outweigh the environmental and technical concerns towards proper scientific disposal of large volumes of rice husk and other biomass as also the rampant open burning of paddy straw;



6. WHEREAS, biomass fuels, internationally are categorised and used as relatively cleaner fuels and technical reports and scientific studies indicate that biomass fuels like rice husk and paddy straw etc. are carbon neutral fuels as the CO₂ released during combustion such fuels is less than the amount of CO₂ sequestered during the entire growth cycle of the biomass, thus facilitating net carbon neutrality;

7. WHEREAS, in the above light and in terms of Directions No. 53 dated 04.02.2022, it was decided by the Commission that such industries located in the NCR beyond the jurisdiction of GNCTD, where gas infrastructure and supply is available, shall under all circumstances completely switch over to PNG or biomass fuels, latest by 30.09.2022, failing which such industries shall be closed down and not permitted to schedule their operations thereafter;

8. WHEREAS, for industrial areas in NCR where PNG infrastructure and supply is not available, such industries were also directed to plan and switchover to operate on biomass fuels at the earliest;

9. WHEREAS, while the extant CPCB standards for PM emission in respect of coal range from 150-1200 mg/Nm³ for various levels of steam generation through coal-based boilers, there are presently no specific emission standards prescribed for Biomass fuels in industrial Boilers;

10. WHEREAS, Section 12(2)(iv) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021 empowers the Commission to lay down parameters for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources whatsoever that have implications on air quality in the region;

11. NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, in exercise of its powers under Section 12 of the Act referred to above, considering the levels of PM emissions generally observed/achieved in respect of existing industries using biomass fuels and applicable international standards, hereby directs that:

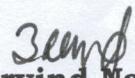
- (i) The max permissible Emission standards for Particulate Matter (PM) emissions for the biomass fuelled boilers shall be 80 mg/Nm³; however, such industries shall aim for an emission level of 50 mg/ Nm³, through suitable technology upgrades and installation of requisite air pollution control devices such as bag filters, cyclonic filters, wet scrubbers, ESPs etc., to be decided by the individual units based on their onsite technical requirements;
- (ii) Simultaneously while switching to use of agro-residue/ biomass fuels on a regular basis, all such industries in NCR must apply for and obtain a revised CTO from the PCBs

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concerned with added conditions to the effect viz. permission to use bio-fuels and prescribed level of emission standards, particularly for controlling the particulate matter emissions.

(iii) In furtherance of Direction No. 53 dated 04.02.2022, in respect of industrial areas in NCR where PNG infrastructure and supply is not available, such industries shall also work to completely switch over to bio-mass fuels at the earliest but not later than 31.12.2022;

(iv) The respective State Governments and Pollution Control Boards in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan shall disseminate and widely publicise these directions across all industrial sectors / units in the NCR territory and ensure compliance of these directions, particularly the targeted timelines for complete switch over to only use PNG or biomass as fuel for all industrial applications in the NCR.


(Arvind Nautiyal)

Member-Secretary

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To,

1. The ACS/ Pr. Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Haryana.
2. The ACS/ Pr. Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Rajasthan.
3. The ACS/ Pr. Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
4. The ACS/ Pr. Secretary, Industries Department, Government of NCT of Delhi.
5. Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board.
6. Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.
7. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board.
8. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

Copy to:

1. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana
2. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan
3. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
4. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM.


(Arvind Nautiyal)

Member-Secretary