

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

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F. No. A-110018/01/2021-CAQM/7847-7872 Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

**Subject: Use of Biomass fuels for new industries in NCR  
beyond the jurisdiction of GNCTD**

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

2. WHEREAS, directions were issued by CPCB vide Letter No. CPCB/IPCI-VI/PNG dated 27.11.2020 mandating that only such new industrial units shall be permitted to be set up in NCR – Delhi which use cleaner fuels namely Natural Gas (PNG/ CNG), Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Biogas, Propane, Butane etc.;

3. WHEREAS, to this effect, the Commission, through statutory Direction No. 31 dated 12.08.2021 had *inter-alia* directed the State Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to audit and inspect the industries, which are already connected to PNG supply and ensure that those industries are not using any other polluting fuels like coal etc. and prepare an implementable Action Plan by clearly specifying definite time lines for switching over of all identified industries units to PNG, where infrastructure and supply of gas are already available;

4. WHEREAS, it also came to light that other than in GNCTD, majority of industries in industrial areas across NCR, where gas infrastructure and supply is available, are, however, still not fully

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operating with PNG/ cleaner fuels and continue to also use polluting fuels such as coal, HSD etc.;

5. WHEREAS, it was further *inter-alia* reiterated in terms of Direction No. 44 dated 16.11.2021 that “All industries in NCR having gas connectivity shall be run only on Gas as a fuel and that all industries in NCR where gas connectivity is available shall immediately be shifted to gas and the State Governments to furnish industry wise date of shifting;

6. 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 the proposal to be submitted to switch over all the industries to PNG/ cleaner fuels in a time-bound manner;

7. WHEREAS, a large number of associations, federations and individuals submitted before the Commission their requests for permitting use of biomass fuels in addition to PNG, citing that biomass-based fuels are much more environment friendly than fossil fuels like HSD and Coal etc. in terms of carbon emissions and also their PM emissions are much controlled;

8. WHEREAS, the technical and process requirements in different industrial sectors were assessed and deliberated in detail in the Commission. 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 the PM emissions 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;

9. WHEREAS, biomass fuels, internationally are categorised and used as relatively clean fuels and technical reports and scientific



studies indicate that biomass fuels like rice husk and paddy straw etc. are carbon neutral fuels as the CO<sub>2</sub> released during combustion of such fuels is less than the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered during the entire growth cycle of the biomass, thus facilitating net carbon neutrality;

10. WHEREAS, in this light, the Commission vide Direction No. 53 dated 04.02.2022 *inter-alia* decided that in respect of industries in NCR beyond the jurisdiction of GNCTD, which despite availability of natural gas infrastructure and supply have still not shifted to PNG/ cleaner fuels 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 and that the industries in the jurisdiction of GNCTD shall necessarily be run only on PNG and electricity;

11. WHEREAS, 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, stipulated the standards for emissions through use of biomass fuels for industrial applications vide Direction No. 62 dated 17.03.2022;

12. WHEREAS, large number of representations were received in the Commission and clarifications were sought on whether the aforesaid Directions bearing No. 53 and 62 would also be applicable to new / under commissioning industrial set ups in NCR, as the Directions of the Central Pollution Control Board dated 27.11.2020 do not permit the new industries in the NCR to run on biomass fuels;



13. WHEREAS, it was requested for a necessary clarification in the CPCB directions as above and the matter was also deliberated upon jointly with the CPCB and MoEFCC;

14. WHEREAS, vide MoEFCC vide their OM No. Q-16017/31/2021-CPA dated 21.04.2022 asked for harmonising the regulatory directions issued by CAQM and CPCB in this regard;

15. WHEREAS, CPCB vide its OM dated 29.04.2022 has written to the Commission to issue separate Directions/clarification in this regard;

16. NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of its powers under Section 12 of the Act referred to above, considering all the aspects, the Commission hereby permits use of biomass fuels as an alternative option in addition to PNG or other cleaner fuels even in new / under commissioning industries in the NCR, beyond the jurisdiction of the NCT of Delhi, subject to strict compliance of the conditions as stipulated under Directions No. 53 and 62 issued by the Commission dated 04.02.2022 and 17.03.2022 respectively.

  
**(Arvind Nautiyal)**

Member-Secretary

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To,

1. The ACS/Pr.Secretary, Industries Department, Govt of Haryana.
2. The ACS/Pr.Secretary, Industries Department, Govt 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)**