

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

- CAQM in 2021 had directed all the road owning/ maintenance/ construction agencies in Delhi and NCR to set up Dust Control and Management Cells (DCMCs) and regularly monitor the progress of dust control measures
- Pursuant to the Commission's Directions, 13 identified Departments/ Agencies have set up DCMCs in Delhi
- CAQM reviewed the progress of action taken by the DCMCs to abate road dust pollution in Delhi
- Out of the total road length of approx. 18,540 km in Delhi, 5,085 km road length has been identified for mechanical sweeping
- Municipal Corporations in the process of procuring 28 MRSMs and 26 Water Sprinkling Machines in the current year; the process of procurement to be completed well before October, 2022
- Commission advises road owning agencies to procure more MRSM and water sprinklers considering the fact that MRSM can effectively sweep only 40 km of road in a day at an average speed of about 5 km/hour for an 8-hour shift
- CAQM emphasizes submission of monthly progress reports
- Since, NHAI is already using dust suppressants, NHAI to carry out a study on efficacy of dust-suppressants and apprise the Commission

NEW DELHI:

The CAQM reviewed the progress of action taken by the road construction and maintenance agencies and DCMCs to abate air pollution arising out of road dust in Delhi. During the review meeting, it was informed that out of the total road length of approx. 18,540 km in Delhi, 5,085 km has been identified for mechanical sweeping. Further, SDMC, EDMC and NDMC are in the process of procuring 12, 10 & 6 Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) and procurement will be completed by September, 2022. The agencies were advised to ensure strict enforcement and implementation of road dust control measures and timely submission of monthly reports.

For effective and efficient functioning, MRSMs have to be deployed at an average speed of about 5 km/hour. For an 8-hour shift, one machine can sweep about 40 km of roads in a day. Therefore, more MRSMs need to be procured by the road constructions and maintenance agencies. For mechanical cleaning of narrow roads, it was informed that smaller size machines are being procured. SDMC and EDMC are planning to procure additionally 16 and 10 Water Sprinkling Machines respectively in the current year.

Presently, water sprinkling is being carried out on roads by different agencies. Dust suppressant chemicals / agents can be used for effective dust control on roads and RoWs. There is no specific study to confirm the efficacy of dust suppressants which can be used effectively. Since, NHAI is using dust suppressants, NHAI was advised to carry out a study on efficacy of dust-suppressants and apprise the Commission.

Accordingly, the various agencies were advised to: -

- Fix targets for conversion of road sides to either paved or to green areas and ensure its implementation to achieve the targets
- Fix targets for greening of central verges and ensure its implementation to achieve the targets
- Map regularly the roads under their respective jurisdiction for potholes, bad patches etc. and ensure their timely repair and maintenance
- Dispose dust scientifically at the designated sites
- Regularly monitor and diligently enforce the dust mitigation measures
- Submit the outcome of the study on the efficacy of dust suppressants by NHAI to the Commission by the end of May, 2022.

The major parameters identified for effective road dust management and monitoring are:

- Optimum utilization of road sweeping machines.
- Scientific disposal of dust collected in designated sites / landfills.
- Sprinkling of water on roads / ROW to suppress dust
- Augmentation of capacity of mechanised sweeping and sprinkling.
- Maintaining of roads properly and regularly to keep the roads pot hole free.
- Laying/repairing of roads to fully support mechanised sweeping.
- Conversion of non-paved road sides into paved one or into green area.
- Greening of central verges.
- Prefer cemented roads over the bituminous roads in Industrial Areas.
- Identification of hot spots and implement specific road dust control measures.

Department of Environment, GNCTD will coordinate with the agencies concerned and submit consolidated reports of all DCMCs to the Commission regularly.
