

**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/Vol-VII/104

Dated: 03.06.2025

Subject: Directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for prevention and control of fire in Sanitary Landfill Sites, Dumpsites and open Municipal Solid Waste/Bio-mass burning in Delhi-NCR- reg.

1. WHEREAS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), has constituted the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Commission);
2. WHEREAS, under section 12(1) of the Act, the Commission has powers to take all such measures, issue directions, etc., as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas;
3. WHEREAS, Section 12 (1) of the Act, empowers the Commission to issue directions in writing to any person, officer, or authority, and such person, officer, or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;
4. WHEREAS, a large number of cases of uncontrolled open burning of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) /Open biomass in NCR are a matter of serious concern and one of the major contributors to air pollution owing to the generation of Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5}) and gaseous pollutants (NO₂, SO₂, and CO). Open burning of MSW, which also consists of plastics and other such materials, leads to the production of Dioxins and Furans,

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which are extremely toxic and a serious health concern for both humans and animals;

5. WHEREAS, Hon'ble NGT's Order (OA No. 21 of 2014) dated 28.04.2015 prohibits the burning of assorted garbage, leaves, waste plastic, and similar materials in open spaces across Delhi-NCR and also mandates strict enforcement by local authorities, duly imposing penalties for violations;
6. WHEREAS, Rule 15(g) of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, prohibits open waste burning and mandates the local authorities to ensure compliance;
7. WHEREAS, Rule 15(zi) of the SWM Rules, 2016, mandates the local authorities to establish and maintain Sanitary Landfill (SLF) sites and ensure proper and adequate solid waste processing facilities, in line with Schedule I of the said Rules;
8. WHEREAS, CPCB direction dated January 27, 2021, issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, mandates all SPCBs/PCCs to direct the authorities concerned in the States/UTs to take necessary action for biomining and bio remediation of legacy waste dumpsites by following the due procedures. Further, the authorities engaged in the biomining process were required to prepare a time-targeted action plan for biomining and bioremediation of dumpsites, adhering to the timelines as per Hon'ble NGT directions given on the matter. The concerned authorities were further required to ensure that no fresh waste was disposed at these dumpsites and proper arrangements for management of fresh solid waste were made.
9. WHEREAS, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)'s Direction No. CP-99/143/2021-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO dated May 26, 2022 issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, inter-alia, directed the authorities concerned in the States / UTs to conduct comprehensive risk assessment study for each of the MSW dumpsite in their jurisdiction and prepare on-site & off-site emergency management plans, preferably

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through an expert agency on the subject for each MSW dumpsite located in their jurisdiction and also suggested certain interim measures to be implemented on priority till the time on-site/off-site Emergency Plans are prepared and implemented;

10. WHEREAS, air pollution arising out of inefficient Municipal Solid Waste Management and instances of open burning of such waste, including the incidences of fires in the identified sanitary landfill sites and dumpsites has been identified as one of the sectors of concern and the Commission, accordingly, through DO letters to all NCR States/ agencies dated 17th and 21st June 2021 called for strict vigil and appropriate safeguarding measures for prevention of fires at the dumpsites. The Commission also has been regularly reviewing the systems/status of the MSW Management and control of its open burning periodically through the meetings of the Sub-Committees of the Commission with major stakeholders viz. the State Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and GNCTD and various Urban Local Bodies in the NCR, and also in the meetings of the Commission;
11. WHEREAS, the Commission, based on wide stakeholder consultations, formulated a policy document in July 2022 to curb Air Pollution in the NCR, which, inter-alia, provides strategies and a targeted action plan to prevent/eliminate open burning of miscellaneous solid waste and to control the incidences of fires in the sanitary landfill sites and MSW dumpsites;
12. WHEREAS, the Commission has been periodically reviewing the progress made by the various agencies concerned in the entire NCR on remediation/management of legacy waste in the SLFs / dumpsites, means and mechanism to manage the entire fresh waste generation including the status of the MSW processing capacities and planned augmentation of such facilities to take care of the future needs, including the measures to control fire incidences at SLFs, dumpsites and open areas;
13. WHEREAS, towards control of open Municipal Solid Waste burning / Bio-mass burning (leaves, twigs etc.) particularly during the winters, the

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Commission also issued an Advisory dated 07.08.2024 to Residents' Welfare Associations (RWA) for providing electric heaters to security staff;

14. WHEREAS, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), as last updated by the Commission in December, 2024, mandates the RWAs under Clause 11 of Stage-II of the Schedule to provide electric heaters to staff engaged in security, sanitation, horticulture and other miscellaneous services to avoid open Bio-Mass/ MSW burning during winters;
15. WHEREAS, the Commission has repeatedly flagged its concern on the issue of open burning of Municipal Solid Waste in open areas during various meetings of the Sub-Committee on Safeguarding and Enforcement including the periodic reviews held from time to time on effectiveness of the measures prescribed under the GRAP;
16. WHEREAS, in view of the concerted efforts and interventions made by all stakeholders to guard against incidences of fire in the SLF sites and dumpsites there has been a marked reduction in the number of reported fire incidents at SLFs and dumpsite sites in Delhi on a year-to-year basis. Such incidences are, however, still reported from other areas in NCR, particularly in the areas in the immediate vicinity of Delhi;
17. WHEREAS, towards wider public participation, the Commission also issued a Standard Operating Procedure for reporting incidents/grievances related to air quality and for redressal of such complaints / public grievances by the concerned agencies;
18. WHEREAS, periodic reviews of public complaints, newspaper reports, including social media complaints etc. generally indicate ineffective implementation of various statutory provisions/ rules/ orders/ guidelines in this regard by the Urban Local Bodies towards prevention of fire incidents at landfill sites and open burning of biomass;
19. WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, while hearing the matter in WP (C) No. 13029 of 1985 relating to recent fire incidents in Bandhwari Landfill

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Site within the limits of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, vide its order dated 02.05.2025, inter-alia, directed that “ *Therefore, it will be appropriate if the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issues directions under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 dealing with this issue including the preventive measures* ”;

20. NOW, THEREFORE, towards ensuring strict compliance of various directions/ orders issued by the Hon’ble Courts, MoEFCC, CPCB or any other authority, and in view of the compelling need to control air pollution from open municipal waste burning/biomass burning and incidences of fire at SLFs and dumpsites, the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section 12 of the CAQM Act directs the concerned agencies in the NCR for taking appropriate actions as under:

I. Management of legacy waste at Sanitary Landfill Sites and Dumpsites – prevention of fire incidents.

- (a) Proper identification, categorization, demarcation and fire risk assessment of all SLFs and dumpsites located in Delhi-NCR.
- (b) Extensive bio-mining / bio-remediation to be carried out in the landfills/dumpsites to liquidate the legacy waste as per the targeted timelines already submitted to the Hon’ble Supreme Court. GNCTD and NCR State Governments to review the respective time-bound action plans for liquidating such legacy solid waste.
- (c) Mandatory installation of CCTV cameras at the SLFs and dumpsites, including appropriate fencing arrangement all along the boundary of the SLFs and dumpsites.
- (d) Installation of Methane Gas Detectors at the SLFs and dumpsites so that the areas with high methane concentration are identified and preventive/corrective measures taken accordingly.

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- (e) Temperature at windrows to be monitored with a non-contact infrared thermometer and records to be maintained for noting major deviations from the temperature range of 35°C - 59°C.
- (f) Frequent patrolling to guard against entry of unauthorised persons at the SLFs and dumpsites, particularly during the night hours.
- (g) Periodic mock drills to be conducted to prevent fire accidents at SLFs and dumpsites, including quarterly audits for Fire Safety and hazardous emissions.
- (h) Adequate fire-fighting arrangements to be made at all SLFs and dumpsites, including hydrants, water tankers and earthmovers for soil spreading etc.
- (i) Adequate storage of sand/chemical fire extinguishing means for immediate action, whenever initiation of fire is sensed, besides dedicated fire tenders (preferably with chemical extinguishing media) and other fire safety measures, specifically during the summer season, which is more prone to SLF and dumpsite fires.
- (j) Safety gear / Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to be provided to all workers at the site and training imparted periodically to the workers towards detection and control of fire including training on safe handling of the legacy waste etc.

II. Management of fresh generation of MSW – prevention of fire incidents through open burning of MSW/Biomass etc:

- a) Ensure collection, segregation, transportation and processing of MSW in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, notified by the MoEFCC.
- b) Improved and effective surveillance mechanism at locations vulnerable to garbage burning, particularly during the night hours and in the winter season.
- c) Zero tolerance towards open burning of MSW at vulnerable points, intermediate dumps, collection centres or during transit.
- d) Regular deployment/patrolling by enforcement teams towards prevention and control of open burning of MSW.

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- e) Augmenting the capacities of Urban Local Bodies to process the horticulture waste in parks, gardens, green belts, institutions, roadside etc. throughout the year and intensify collection efforts during autumn season.
- f) Public awareness campaigns and public participation should be ensured through RWAs, Industry Associations, Shopkeepers' Associations, etc. to prevent open waste burning in municipal areas.
- g) Regular capacity-building programs should be incorporated for sanitation staff to enhance their skills and knowledge in the processing and handling of municipal solid waste

All concerned agencies as mentioned under various statutes relating to solid waste management are directed to ensure compliance with the above directions of the Commission. These directions are in addition to the existing directions issued by the Hon'ble Courts, MoEFCC, CPCB or any other authority. A consolidated State wide report on prevention and control of sanitary landfill site and dumpsite fires and open Municipal Solid Waste / Bio-mass burning in Delhi-NCR shall be submitted by the SPCBs/ DPCC to the Commission for the respective NCR areas in the format prescribed for the Quarterly Report.

It may be noted that non-compliance of the Directions of the Commission shall attract penal action in terms of Clause 14 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.


(Arvind Nautiyal)
Member- Secretary
Email: arvind.nautiyal@gov.in

To

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, 3'd Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi — 110002. (csdelhi@nic.in)

2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 101, Lok Bhawan, U.P. Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow — 226001. (csup@nic.in)
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, 4th Floor, Civil Secretariat, Sector — 1, Chandigarh. (cs@hry.nic.in)
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Government Secretariat, Jaipur, Rajasthan — 302005. (cs-rajasthan@nic.in)

Copy to:

1. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of NCT of Delhi.
2. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
3. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Haryana.
4. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Rajasthan.
5. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 6th floor, C Wing, Delhi Secretariat, IP Estate, Delhi – 110002. (msdpcc@nic.in)
6. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, TC 12V, Vibhuti Khand, Gomati Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh — 226010. (ms@uppcb.in)
7. Member Secretary, Haryana Pollution Control Board, C-11, Sector 6, Panchkula, Haryana – 134109. (hspcbms@gmail.com)
8. Member Secretary, Rajasthan Pollution Control Board, 4, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongari, Jaipur, Rajasthan- 302004. (member-secretary@rpcb.nic.in)

Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM


(Arvind Nautiyal)
Member-Secretary