

# Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

## PRESS RELEASE

- The Commission since its inception has rigorously taken up the matter of *Ex-situ* utilisation of paddy straw, as an important strategy towards management of agricultural stubble;
- CAQM through its Statutory Direction No. 42 dated 17.09.2021 had mandated identified 11 Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) located within 300 Km of Delhi to co-fire biomass pellets with coal in proportion up to 5-10%;
- Use of low Sulphur coal has been permitted in NCR, as an exception, only in the TPPs in NCR. As this provision is also applicable to the Captive Thermal Power Plants (CTPPs), co-firing of biomass-based pellets with coal also needs to be promoted in all CTPPs: CAQM;
- CAQM accordingly directs all CTPPs situated in NCR to initiate immediate steps to co-fire biomass-based pellets (with focus on paddy straw utilization) with coal through a continuous and uninterrupted supply chain targeting at least 5% co-firing of biomass pellets, latest by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 and at least 10% co-firing by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023;
- CAQM also directs CTPPs to strictly comply with the standards of emissions, at all times and with immediate effect, as stipulated vide MoEFCC's Notification S.O. 3305(E), dated 07.12.2015 and its amendments from time to time;
- The first action taken report in compliance of the Direction to be submitted to CAQM by 30.09.2023 and reports thereafter to be sent on a monthly basis, failing which strict action shall be initiated against the CTPP

NEW DELHI:

For effective utilization of agricultural residue as a resource, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) via Direction No. 72 dated 17.03.2023 has directed all Captive Thermal Power Plants (CTPPs) in the National Capital Region (NCR) to initiate immediate steps to co-fire biomass-based pellets (with

focus on paddy straw utilization) with coal through a continuous and uninterrupted supply chain targeting at least 5% co-firing of biomass pellets, **latest by 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023** and at least 10% co-firing by **31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023**.

Further, these CTPPs have also been directed by the Commission to strictly comply with the standards of emissions, at all times and with immediate effect, as stipulated vide MoEFCC's Notification S.O. 3305(E), dated 07.12.2015 and its amendments from time to time. The first action taken report in compliance of this Direction has to be submitted to the Commission by **30.09.2023** and reports thereafter to be sent on a monthly basis.

*Ex-situ* utilization of paddy straw, being an important strategy to control stubble burning, the Commission since its inception has taken up the matter of *Ex-situ* management of agricultural stubble with NCR State Governments and the State Government Authorities for ensuring use of agricultural residue/ biomass pellets as fuel in the Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).

The Commission through its Statutory Direction No. 42 dated 17.09.2021 had mandated identified 11 TPPs located within 300 Km of Delhi to co-fire biomass pellets with coal in proportion up to 5-10%.

Use of low Sulphur coal has been permitted in NCR, as an exception, only in the TPPs in NCR. As this provision is also applicable to the Captive Thermal Power Plants, co-firing of biomass-based pellets with coal also needs to be undertaken in all CTPPs.

CTTPs have also been directed to submit the first action taken report in compliance of Direction No. 72 latest by 30.09.2023, failing which CTPPs are liable for action.

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