

**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/167(VS)

Dated: 01.10.2025

Subject: Implementation of the plans of action for prevention and control of Paddy Stubble Burning, targeting elimination - effective enforcement mechanism 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, 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 and Adjoining Areas;
3. WHEREAS, Section 12 (2) (xi) of the Act, empowers the Commission to issue Directions in writing to any person, officer, or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such Directions;
4. WHEREAS, paddy stubble burning is a matter of grave concern due to its high impact on air quality in NCR and the Commission, since inception, has been continually deliberating upon the issue with major stakeholders including with the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, GNCTD, State Pollution Control Boards of NCR States and Punjab, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and various academic and knowledge institutions in this field;

5. WHEREAS, the Commission, through its Direction dated 10.06.2021, provided a Framework to the concerned States for the control and elimination of crop residue burning, and directed them to prepare detailed State-specific Action Plans based on the key elements of the said Framework. Subsequently, an Advisory dated 28.07.2021 was issued by the Commission regarding effective *ex-situ* stubble management in the States of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Further, through Directions dated 16.08.2021, the Commission directed the Governments of the NCR States, the Government of NCT of Delhi, and the Government of Punjab to adopt the standard protocol developed by ISRO for monitoring and reporting fire events using satellite data. In compliance with these Directions and Advisories and based on the field experience and learnings of the past, the Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the NCT of Delhi have been formulating State-specific Action Plans for the prevention and control of paddy stubble burning during the harvest season;
6. WHEREAS, the Commission issued Statutory Directions to the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh for the effective implementation of their respective Action Plans in letter and spirit. In addition to the said Directions for the management of paddy stubble, the Commission also emphasized the need for effective enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, along with appropriate safeguarding measures, to ensure complete elimination of paddy stubble burning;
7. WHEREAS, towards effective implementation of the Action Plans, various consultative and review meetings have been held from time to time with all stakeholders concerned in the States in which the State Governments have committed to targeting elimination of paddy residue burning practice;
8. WHEREAS, despite targeted elimination, paddy residue burning events continue to be reported during the paddy harvesting season mainly from the States of Punjab and Haryana ;
9. WHEREAS, the Commission from time to time has called for immediately arresting this trend and initiate appropriate and effective enforcement

mechanism, entrusting responsibility and accountability on the identified officials;

10. WHEREAS, effective implementation and enforcement of the Action Plans towards targeted elimination of paddy stubble burning needs to be strengthened at the level of various agencies of the State Governments;
11. WHEREAS, Section 14 of the Act also stipulates that any non-compliance or contravention of any provisions of the Act, Rules, Directions or Orders issued by the Commission shall be an offence;
12. WHEREAS, the Commission has taken a note of the reported paddy stubble burning incidences and has noted that monitoring and enforcement measures towards prevention of paddy stubble burning in the States of Punjab, Haryana and NCR areas of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and in the NCT of Delhi need to be strengthened;
13. WHEREAS, through appropriate orders issued by the various State Governments, open burning of paddy and other agricultural stubble in the fields is already a prohibited activity;
14. WHEREAS, the Commission, through Direction 84 dated 10.10.2024 had authorised the Deputy Commissioners / District Collectors / District Magistrates in the States of Punjab, Haryana, NCR areas of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and in the NCT of Delhi to file a complaint/prosecution before jurisdictional judicial magistrate, in case of inaction in respect of officials, responsible for effective enforcement towards ensuring elimination of paddy stubble burning in their respective jurisdiction;
15. WHEREAS, in order to ensure the complete elimination of paddy stubble burning, it has been felt necessary to strengthen the concerned authorities by empowering them to initiate penal action against officials found responsible for inaction or failure in the effective monitoring and enforcement of measures aimed at eliminating paddy stubble burning within their respective jurisdictions;



16. NOW THEREFORE, in supersession of Direction No. 84 dated 10.10.2024, the Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section 14(2) of the Act, hereby authorizes the Deputy Commissioners / District Collectors / District Magistrates in the States of Punjab, Haryana, NCR areas of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and in the NCT of Delhi to file a complaint before jurisdictional judicial magistrate, in case of inaction in respect of officials, including nodal officers and supervisory officers at various levels and Station House Officers, responsible for effective enforcement towards ensuring elimination of paddy stubble burning in their respective jurisdiction;
17. The District administrations and the State Governments are expected to maintain constant and strict vigil towards elimination of paddy stubble burning.



(Dr. Virinder Sharma)
Member- Technical

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To

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat- 1, Sector- 1, Chandigarh- 160001.
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, 4th Floor, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector- 1, Chandigarh_ 160001.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 101, Lok Bhawan, U.P. Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow-226001.
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi- 110001.
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005.

Copy to:

1. Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board.
2. Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board.
3. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board.
4. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee.
5. Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.
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Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM



(Dr. Virinder Sharma)
Member- Technical