



No.120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM

November 02, 2023

ORDER

Sub.: Implementation of Actions under Stage-III ('Severe' Air Quality) of revised Graded Response Action Plan in Delhi-NCR- steps to be taken.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas, vide Direction No. 77 dated 6th October, 2023, issued statutory direction for implementation of the revised schedule of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) with immediate effect as and when orders under GRAP are invoked. The same is also available on the CAQM website (caqm.nic.in).

The Sub-Committee constituted for invoking actions under the GRAP in its meeting held on 2nd November, 2023 comprehensively reviewed the air quality scenario in the region as well as the forecasts for meteorological conditions and air quality index made available by IMD/IITM.

The Sub-Committee observed that the AQI of Delhi since 10:00AM of 02.11.2023 is on sharp increase and at 4:00 PM the average AQI for Delhi on date recorded as 392. Further, the average AQI for Delhi at 5:00 PM stood at 402 which is only expected to increase further owing to the highly unfavorable meteorological and climatic conditions.

Keeping in view the prevailing trend of air quality, in an effort to prevent further deterioration of the air quality, the sub-committee decided that ALL actions as envisaged under Stage III of the GRAP - 'Severe' Air Quality (DELHI AQI ranging between 401-450) be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned in the NCR, with immediate effect, in addition to the stage I and II actions already in force.

These include:

1. Further intensify the frequency of mechanised/ vacuum-based sweeping of roads.
2. Ensure daily water sprinkling along with dust suppressants, before peak traffic hours, on roads and right of ways including hotspots, heavy traffic corridors and ensure proper disposal of the collected dust in designated sites/ landfills.
3. Further intensify public transport services. Introduce differential rates to encourage off-peak travel.
4. Construction & Demolition activities:

(i) Enforce strict ban on construction and demolition activities in the entire NCR, except for the following categories of projects:

- a. Projects for Railway services / Railway stations
- b. Projects for Metro Rail Services and stations
- c. Airports and Inter State Bus Terminals
- d. National security/ defence related activities/ projects of national importance;
- e. Hospitals/ health care facilities
- f. Linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, over bridges, power transmission/distribution, pipelines etc.
- g. Sanitation projects like sewage treatment plants and water supply projects etc.;
- h. Ancillary activities, specific to and supplementing the above noted categories of projects.

Note: The above exemptions shall be further subject to strict compliance of the C&D Waste Management Rules, dust prevention/control norms including compliance with the directions of the Commission issued from time to time in this regard.

(ii) Other than the projects exempted under (i) above, dust generating/ air pollution causing C&D activities to be strictly banned during this period shall include:

- Earthwork for excavation and filling including boring & drilling works.
- All structural construction works including fabrication and welding operations.
- Demolition works.
- Loading & unloading of construction materials anywhere within or outside the project sites.
- Transfer of raw materials either manually or through conveyor belts, including fly ash.
- Movement of vehicles on unpaved roads.
- Operation of batching plant.
- Laying of sewer line, waterline, drainage work and electric cabling by open trench system.
- Cutting and fixing of tiles, stones and other flooring materials.
- Grinding activities.
- Piling work.
- Water proofing work.
- Painting, Polishing and varnishing works etc.
- Road construction/ repair works including paving of sidewalks / pathways and central verges etc.

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(iii) For all construction projects in NCR, non-polluting / non-dust generating activities such as plumbing works, electrical works, carpentry related works and interior furnishing / finishing / decoration works (excluding painting, polishing and varnishing works etc) shall be permitted to be continued.

5. Close down operations of stone crushers
6. Close down all mining and associated activities in the NCR.
7. NCR State Govts. / GNCTD to impose strict restrictions on plying of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel LMVs (4 wheelers) in Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar.
8. State Govts. in NCR and GNCTD may take a decision on discontinuing physical classes in schools for children up to Class V and conducting classes in an online mode.

Further, citizens may be urged to adhere to the citizen charter and assist in effective implementation of the GRAP measures aimed towards sustaining and improving the Air Quality in the region, as under:

- Walk or use cycles for small distances.
- Choose a cleaner commute. Share a ride to work or use public transport.
- People, whose positions allow working from home, may work from home.
- Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose.
- Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning.
- Combine errands and reduce trips.


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