



SPEED POST

F. No. AQM/AP/2019-20/

11-3-2021

To,

Principal Secretary, Environment
Govt. of Maharashtra
Environment Department
Maharashtra Mantralaya
Mumbai – 400032

Sub.: Directions under Section 31A of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 regarding preparation of action plans-reg.

WHEREAS, under Section 16 (2) (b) (d) (g) and (j) of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, mandates Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) to execute nation-wide programme, provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Boards for prevention, control or abatement of air pollution; collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data relating to air pollution control and abatement of air pollution and perform such other functions as may be prescribed;

WHEREAS, air pollution particularly PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ has emerged as a major health concern in most of the cities & towns, with air quality reaching to alarming levels; and

WHEREAS, based on the data for the period 2015–2019, 124 cities failed to meet the prescribed standards are identified as non-attainment cities; and

WHEREAS, in pursuant to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal order, all the States and Union Territories with non-attainment cities were required to constitute Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC), and AQMCs to prepare appropriate action plans aimed at bringing the standards of air quality within the prescribed norms; and

WHEREAS, as per order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, a three member committee shall examine the Action Plans and on the recommendations of the said Committee, the Chairman, CPCB shall approve the same; and

WHEREAS, city action plans for 17 non-attainment cities of Maharashtra were already approved for implementation on 16-04-2019, 25-06-2019 and 09-10-2019; and

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WHEREAS, the city action plan for one newly added non-attainment city Thane was not approved by the committee and accordingly direction was issued to Principal Secretary, Environment on 23-01-2020 & 27-01-2021; and

WHEREAS, under XV- Financial commission (2020-21) funds were sanctioned to 42 million plus cities for air quality improvement; and

WHEREAS, out of 42 million plus cities 8 cities (Rajkot, Faridabad, Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Vasai-Virar, Jabalpur, Chennai and Meerut) which are not non-attainment were also requested to prepare city action plan; and

WHEREAS, the city action plan for Vasai-Virar city of Maharashtra was submitted to CPCB on 23-12-2020; and

WHEREAS, the three member committee examined the city plan of Vasai-Virar on 25-02-2021 and recommendations of committee are placed at Annexure-I and Annexure-II; and

WHEREAS, in view of recommendations of the three member committee, Competent Authority has approved the city action plan for aforesaid city in state of Maharashtra along with the recommendations enclosed at Annexure-I, for ground implementation with immediate effect.

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers under Section 31 A of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, you are directed to implement the city action plan, submit financial layout of each action within 30 days and submit progress report of the same to CPCB on quarterly basis.

Receipt of this direction shall be acknowledged immediately and action taken shall be communicated to CPCB within 07 days.


(Shiv Das Meena)
Chairman

(PK)

- **State:** Maharashtra
- **City:** Vasai-Virar
- **Plan received on date:** 23-12-2020

Key Component	Observations	Remarks
Air Quality Monitoring Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing monitoring network not provided. • Expansion plan proposed but not adequate 	CAAQMS not as per Guidelines (see attached)
Source Identification	Vehicles, Road Dust, Biomass Burning, Industry, Construction Activities, Domestic Fuel, DG sets, Mining Activities, Brick Kilns	-
Source Apportionment (SA) and Emission Inventory (EI)	EI & SA not quantified	Carryout EI & SA estimates
Action Points	Addressed all major sources	-
Long-term Strategy	Long term actions proposed	-
Timeframe	Timelines proposed for various actions (up to three years)	Provide time target in Vehicle Point No. xi, SCS-2, SCS-5, SCS-9, SCS-10 and SCS-13
Executing Agencies	Identified	-
Public Awareness and Complaint Redressal Mechanism	Specific plans and public complaints redressal mechanism not outlined	Detail proposal to be worked out
Budget Support	Budget estimates given	Provide financial resources for each a every component (If financial resources not required in any action please clearly mention that the “Financial Resources not required”
Overall Recommendation	Recommended with revisions (See comments on revised plan including comments for improvement).	

Air Quality Monitoring network design criteria

Population (Census 2011)	Minimum No. of manual station under NAMP	Minimum no of proposed CAAQMS	Total
1,00,000- < 5,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	1-Residential	4
5,00,000- <10,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	1-Residential 1-Traffic dominant area 1- Commercial	6
10,00,000- <50,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	2-Residential 1-Traffic dominant area 1- Commercial 1-Industrial area	8
≥50,00,000	1-Background in upwind direction 1-Background in down wind direction 2-Residential/ Commercial	4-Residential 3-Traffic dominant area 3- Commercial 2-Industrial area	16

General observations made by three member committee for further improvements in the plans:

1. Emission Inventory , Source Apportionment and Carrying Capacity Assessment: Vehicular Pollution, Industrial Emissions, Population Density, Construction Activities

The AQMCs should duly address the above issues so that the cities remain air quality compliant in future and some activities, if required, are restricted in future planning. It is expected the knowledge from EI, SA and carrying capacity assessment will upgrade the action plans.

2. Interim Emission Reduction Targets

The plans should include auditable and verifiable interim emission reduction targets. This will ensure continuous and timely implementation of actions.

3. Challenges in Implementation: Role of Central Agencies

Some actions proposed in the plans (e.g. supply of CNG or PNG) will require coordination and commitment from Central agencies. It is desirable that such actions are discussed with concerned agencies for effective implementation.

4. Consideration to Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

The GRAP is an important contingency plan in NCR. The SPCBs may give due consideration to the GRAP and develop a suitable plan relevant to the emissions in the city and likelihood of their impact on air quality.

5. District Level Monitoring Committee

Besides AQMC, a monitoring committee headed by the Municipal Commissioner or District Magistrate comprising senior officers from concerned departments may be considered to review the progress and ensure smooth implementation of the plan.