



ORDER FOR SHIFTING OF 50% HR STRENGTH TO ONLINE MODE U/S 6(1) (t) OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1997

ORDER

WHEREAS, Government of Punjab is striving hard to control all possible intrinsic factors which cause air pollution and deteriorate quality of ambient air. Pre-emptive measures against all the sources of air pollution have already been started by EPA as well as other departments concerned.

2. **AND WHEREAS**, as per Section 2(xxxiii) of The Punjab Environmental Protection Act 1997, **pollution** means the contamination of air, land or water by the discharge or emission of effluents or wastes or air pollutants or noise or other matter which either directly or indirectly or in combination with other discharges or substances alters unfavorably the chemical, physical, biological, radiation, thermal or radiological or aesthetic properties of the air, land or water or which may, or is likely to make the air, land or water unclean, noxious or impure or injurious, disagreeable or detrimental to the health, safety, welfare or property of persons or harmful to biodiversity;

3. **AND WHEREAS** the **Health Advisory System for Critical Air Pollution Events** (HAS-CAPEs) has been notified on 13.12.2022 under which the 1st meeting of Provincial CAPEs Committee (PCC) was held on 21.10.2024 which declared that Critical Air Pollution Event has taken place in Lahore. **Subsequently the Critical Air Pollution Events have also taken place in districts of Faisalabad, Multan and Gujranwala in last week. The average AQI of these districts has crossed the critical limit of 500 which is alarmingly hazardous for human health and wellbeing. Likewise, reports are being received that an unprecedented rise in the number of patients with lungs and respiratory diseases, allergies, eye and throat irritation is being observed in these districts. The spread of conjunctivitis / pink eye disease due to bacterial or viral infection, smoke, dust or chemical exposure is posing a serious and imminent threat to public health. Hence, it is mandatory to take all necessary measures for prevention and control of these diseases in the said districts.**

4. **AND WHEREAS**, the said situation is likely to prevail for a few weeks due to the current weather phenomenon in which thick polluted air is likely to remain trapped near the ground due to temperature inversion and negligible wind speed. In addition, the local pollution contributing factors, **especially vehicular emissions**, may further exacerbate the said conditions. Hence, the situation warrants to specify safeguards to reduce the number of vehicles on roads in order to control air pollution.

5. **AND WHEREAS**, Section 6(1) (t) of the ibid Act empowers EPA to take or cause to be taken all necessary measures for the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and improvement of the environment, prevention and control of pollution and promotion of sustainable development;

6. **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh (PAS), Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab in exercise of the powers conferred upon me u/s 6(1) (t) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997, do hereby order that **all the private offices, franchises, NGOs etc shall reduce the physical presence of their human resource to 50% by shifting them to online mode / work from home.**

7. This order shall come into force with effect from **13th November, 2024 (Wednesday)** in the territorial jurisdiction of Divisions of Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan and Gujranwala and shall remain in force till **31st December, 2024 (Tuesday)**.

8. **Any contravention to this order shall be punished U/S 188 PPC.**

Issued under my hand and seal on this 12th day of November, 2024.



Dr. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH (PAS)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
PUNJAB

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

- I. The Secretary, Environment Protection & Climate Change Department Punjab
- II. The Commissioners Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan and Gujranwala Divisions
- III. The Director General, DGPR, Lahore.
- IV. All the Deputy Commissioners of constituent districts of Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan and Gujranwala Divisions for implementation
- V. The Secretary, Judicial Water & Environment Commission (JWEC), Punjab
- VI. The Additional Secretary (Staff), Chief Secretary's Office, Lahore.

- VII. The Additional Secretary (Coordination), Chief Minister Office, Lahore.
- VIII. The Chief Environment & Climate Change, P&D Board, Lahore.
- IX. The Additional Director General (Ops & Imp), EPA Punjab
- X. PSO to Minister for Environment, Forest and P&D
- XI. PSO to Provincial Police Officer/IGP for circulation among concerned officers
- XII. The Deputy Director (Field), EPA of all the concerned districts of Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan and Gujranwala Divisions
- XIII. PA to Director General EPA Punjab