

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

16th & 17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan,
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 04th August 2026

PRESS RELEASE

CAQM amends Direction No. 86 and extends monitoring & enforcement of dust mitigation measures at all major towns of NCR;

More ULBs empowered to prosecute gross violators at C&D sites

NEW DELHI:

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has issued an Amendment dt. 03.08.2026 to its Statutory Direction No. 86, to further strengthen enforcement against violations of dust mitigation measures at Construction & Demolition (C&D) sites with plot area less than 500 sqm. across the National Capital Region (NCR). The amendment seeks to widen the ambit of enforcement by extending the powers to initiate prosecution against gross violators to additional Municipal Corporations/ Development Authorities/ Municipal Councils/ Municipal Boards and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in NCR.

The Commission issued Statutory Direction No. 86 dated 02.01.2025 and also amended it on 24.06.2025, authorizing the Commissioner/ Zonal Deputy Commissioners of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD); Secretary, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC); and Commissioners/ Chief Executives/ Deputy Commissioners of various ULBs in Gurugram, Faridabad, NOIDA, Greater NOIDA, Ghaziabad and Sonipat to file a complaint/ prosecution before the jurisdictional Judicial Magistrate, in case of gross violations of directions/ orders relating to dust and air pollution control and mitigation measures at such sites in their respective jurisdiction. The Direction also empowered these authorities to order closure of such sites and impose or realise Environmental Compensation (EC), in such cases of gross violations, including that of the GRAP Schedule in respect of C&D activities.

Recognising that a significant number of construction projects on plots having an area of less than 500 sqm. are also ongoing in several other Municipal Corporation/ bigger cities/ towns in NCR which contribute significantly to overall PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} load attributed to C&D sector, the Commission has now expanded the enforcement framework to ensure more effective implementation of dust mitigation measures across the region.

Through this amendment, the Commission has expanded the enforcement mechanism under Direction No. 86 by extending the powers to initiate prosecution against gross violators of dust mitigation measures at C&D sites to additional Municipal Corporations, Development Authorities and Urban Local Bodies across the NCR, including **Manesar, Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak, Meerut, Alwar, Bharatpur, Bhiwadi and Neemrana**, besides strengthening the existing enforcement mechanism in NCR.

The amended Direction further requires all concerned agencies to submit a monthly status report to the Commission on complaints and prosecutions filed, along with the monthly progress reports already being submitted to the Commission. This reporting mechanism is expected to strengthen accountability and facilitate closer monitoring of enforcement actions across the NCR.

During the last quarter April-June 2026, 16,195 inspections were undertaken by DPCC/SPCBs at C&D sites in Delhi, 909 sites in Haryana (NCR), 230 sites in Uttar Pradesh (NCR) and 160 sites in NCR Districts of Rajasthan.

Considering the large number of C&D activities being undertaken across NCR, particularly smaller construction projects on plots measuring less than 500 sqm., expanding the enforcement framework to additional Municipal Corporations/ Development Authorities/ Municipal Councils/ Municipal Boards and ULBs assumes considerable significance for ensuring effective implementation of dust mitigation measures and strengthening compliance across the region.

The Commission has reiterated that effective enforcement of dust control measures at C&D sites remains a vital component improving air overall quality of the region. The expanded enforcement mechanism shall ensure stricter compliance, strengthen deterrence against violations and contribute significantly towards reduction of dust emissions across NCR.
