

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Env., Sci., Technology & CC

No. STE-F(1)-1/2023 Dated: Shimla-2, 04-10-2025.

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, in compliance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in M.C. Mehta v. Union of India & Others, Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985, and the order dated 28.03.2019 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Principal Bench, New Delhi, in Original Application No. 67 of 2019, this Department had issued a Fuel Policy vide Notification No. STE-F(1)-1/2019 dated 18.04.2022, permitting the use of Pet Coke in specified industries as feedstock/fuel subject to certain conditions. It was stipulated that those industries which are unable to comply with the conditions shall shift to alternate clearer fuel within prescribed time limits;

2. WHEREAS, the said notification was amended vide Notification No. STE-F(1)-1/2019 dated 01.04.2023 to stipulate that Petcoke shall be permitted as feedstock or fuel only if its Sulphur content does not exceed 7% by weight (on dry basis), determined in accordance with Indian standards;

3. WHEREAS, relaxations permitting Petcoke with sulphur content up to 7.5% were allowed vide Notifications of even number dated 12.10.2023 and dated 28.01.2025 in view of the non-availability of compliant Petcoke with sulphur content up to 7% in neighbouring refineries and the limited coverage of gas pipeline infrastructure in industrial areas;

4. AND WHEREAS, on culmination of period of relaxation, a draft notification stipulating that Petcoke shall be permitted in the industries only if its Sulphur content does not exceed 7% by weight (on dry basis), was uploaded on the official website of the Department for inviting objections and suggestions from the stakeholders. In response, numerous representations from different Industrial Associations, Cement Industries and Oil Refineries were received objecting to the

stipulation of sulphur content not exceeding 7% in Petcoke. These representations were got examined through a Committee headed by the Director, EST&CC and certain recommendations were given by the committee regarding use of Petcoke in the industries as fuel/feedstock.

5. NOW, THEREFORE, in continuation of this Department's aforesaid Notifications dated 18.04.2022, dated 01.04.2023, dated 12.10.2023 and dated 28.01.2025 and further taking into consideration the recommendations of the Committee, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to order further relaxation regarding usage of Petcoke having Sulphur content not exceeding 7.5% by weight (dry basis) in all those Industries which are using Petcoke as Fuel till the time the gas pipeline network reaches them or else the Petcoke with 7% Sulphur content by weight (dry basis) is made available in the nearest IOCL or HPCL oil refineries subject to complying to the conditions already stipulated along with additional conditions as under:-

- a) That all such Industries using Petcoke as Fuel shall install advanced pollution control systems such as Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) Units, Alkaline Wet Scrubbers and the Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) or bag filters for PM reduction etc.
- b) There should be mandatory installation of Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS), in all medium and large-scale units using Petcoke, with direct online connectivity to the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board (HPSPCB) for real-time compliance monitoring.
- c) There shall be complete prohibition on the storage and use of Petcoke within the Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs), National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and buffer zones notified, if any, around urban settlements.
- d) Compliances shall be ensured by the HPPCB through laboratory analysis conducted in accordance to extant Indian standards.

- e) The HPSPCB shall carry out the scientific analysis of Petcoke using industries in the State and submit report to the Administrative Department (AD) as to whether the industries with 90% reduction of sulphur content up to 7% or 7.5% may be allowed or not in the long run.
- f) The HPSPCB shall also conduct regular monitoring of industries to ensure installation of required pollution control devices as mentioned above, and an Action Taken Report in this regard may be submitted to the AD for taking further necessary action.

6. The Governor, Himachal Pradesh is further pleased to order that the Cement Industries using Petcoke as feedstock shall also be permitted upto 7.5% or lesser Sulphur content by weight (dry basis) as per availability and also ensure installation of all mandatory pollution control devices to meet the standard emission norms prescribed by the MoEF&CC for them.

This notification shall become effective from the date of issue with immediate effect.

By order

Sanjay Gupta, IAS
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. STE-F (1)-1/2023 Dated: Shimla-2, the 04-10-2025.

Copy forwarded to for information and necessary action to:-

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Govt. of H.P.
2. All the Heads of the Departments of H.P.
3. All the Divisional Commissioners in H.P.
4. All the Deputy Commissioners in H.P.
5. The Director, Env. Science & Technology & CC, Shimla-1
6. The Member Secretary, HP State Pollution Control Board, Shimla-9.
7. Guard file.


(Satpal Dhiman)

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