

**COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS**

17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building)
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

F. No. A-11018/01/ 2021-CAQM

Dated: 15th May, 2026

Subject: Directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 imposing restriction on fuelling of vehicles without valid PUC in NCR – reg.

1. WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”), has constituted the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;
2. WHEREAS, under Section 12(1) of the Act, the Commission is empowered to take all such measures, issue directions etc., as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas;

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3. WHEREAS, Section 12(2)(xi) of the Act empowers the Commission to issue directions in writing to any person, officer or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;
4. WHEREAS, the National Capital Region continues to experience adverse air quality conditions, particularly during the winter months and PM_{2.5} remains the predominant pollutant determining the Air Quality Index (AQI) in the region;
5. WHEREAS, protection and improvement of ambient air quality is integral to protection of public health and the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, and the precautionary principle requires preventive and effective measures to control emissions contributing to air pollution;
6. WHEREAS, vehicular emissions constitute a significant contributor to PM_{2.5} and NO_x levels in NCR, accounting for approximately 23% of PM_{2.5} load during winter months and about 18% during summer months, thereby necessitating effective enforcement of vehicular emission norms and compliance mechanisms;
7. WHEREAS, sub-rule (7) of Rule 115 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 mandates that every motor vehicle, after expiry of a period of one year from the date of its first registration, shall carry a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC), which shall be produced on demand by the officers referred to in the sub-rule (1) of Rule 116;

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8. WHEREAS, the Commission is of the view that effective enforcement of PUC requirement is necessary for prevention, control and abatement of vehicular emissions contributing to adverse air quality in Delhi-NCR;
9. WHEREAS, based on review of PUC compliance status, it has been noticed that a substantial number of vehicles continue to ply without valid PUC, thereby undermining statutory emission control requirements and contributing to avoidable vehicular pollution;
10. WHEREAS, 'PUC Version 2.0' introduced in the year 2023, ensures the physical presence of a vehicle at the PUC centre i.e. Automated Emission Testing Centres (AETC) at the time of issuing PUC by leveraging a mobile App, thereby enabling more reliable and transparent PUC issuance process. Features in PUC Version-2.0 include the following:
 - i. A smart phone will be connected with the PUC centre through NIC software mobile App.
 - ii. The mobile camera will capture the vehicle registration number, photograph of the vehicle along with PUC centre and a small video recording of the same showing the surrounding area to confirm the physical presence of the vehicle at the PUC centre during the emission test.
 - iii. The video recording shall clearly depict the proper insertion of the probe into the exhaust pipe during the emission testing.
 - iv. The mobile camera is geo tagged with PUC centre and if the vehicle is not in the area, the test cannot be performed.

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11. WHEREAS, PUC test conducted at AETC measures harmful gases released from the vehicle, namely: Carbon Monoxide (CO), Hydrocarbons (HC), LAMBDA; Non-Methane Hydrocarbon (NMHC) for vehicles operating on CNG in place of HC; Reactive Hydrocarbon (RHC) for vehicles operating on LPG in place of HC; and Smoke Density for diesel-driven vehicles. Further, linking of the PUC test record with the centralized VAHAN database for vehicles is also mandatory;
12. WHEREAS, the Commission, in its revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) schedule dated 21.11.2025, has directed for strict vigilance and enforcement of PUC norms for vehicles with no tolerance for visible emissions and to stop visibly polluting vehicles by impounding and/or levying maximum penalty. The Commission has further advised the citizens to keep PUC certificates of their vehicles up to date;
13. WHEREAS, intensified enforcement is required against vehicles plying without valid PUC and there is need for adoption of suitable technological interventions for identification/detection of vehicles without valid PUC plying in Delhi-NCR;
14. WHEREAS, technological solutions such as Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system integrated with VAHAN and PUC database enable real-time identification of vehicles without valid PUC and facilitate efficient and transparent enforcement of emission compliance requirements;

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15. WHEREAS, the Commission, having regard to the significant contribution of vehicular emissions to air pollution in NCR, vide its Advisory No. 16 dated 11.11.2024, had advised GNCTD/NCR States to consider adopting innovative technological interventions like Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras at fuelling stations and traffic surveillance camera systems with Integrated Command and Control Centres for traffic management and enforcement;
16. WHEREAS, the Government of NCT of Delhi has deployed ANPR-enabled systems at all fuel stations in its jurisdiction. This system, besides capturing and displaying the registration details of all the vehicles that enter the premises of the fuel station, also has a provision of integration with VAHAN database and thus the status of vehicles without valid PUC can be readily captured by the system. The system further has a provision for an audio message which is relayed in respect of such non-compliant vehicles entering the premises of the fuel station;
17. WHEREAS, considering the transboundary nature of vehicular movement and air pollution in NCR, the Commission is of the considered view that that coordinated implementation of such technology-enabled enforcement measures across Delhi-NCR is necessary to ensure uniform regulatory compliance and effective implementation of vehicular emission control measures throughout the region;
18. WHEREAS, deliberations have also been held with the GNCTD/NCR State Governments and other stakeholders regarding implementation of technology-enabled enforcement systems for the vehicular sector;

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19. WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Forests, Government of NCT of Delhi, vide Notification dated 22.04.2026, has mandated that:

“Fuel (Petrol/Diesel/CNG/LPG) shall be dispensed to motor vehicles only upon production of a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate.

The Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Indraprastha Gas Limited, Reliance Industries Limited (Reliance Petroleum), all other petrol/diesel/CNG pumps/ stations/ retail outlets, along with the Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs, GNCTD, Transport Department, GNCTD, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Traffic Police shall ensure strict compliance with the direction in letter and spirit.”

20. WHEREAS, the aforesaid measure introduced by the Government of NCT of Delhi envisages technology-enabled enforcement of mandatory PUC requirement through coordinated action by concerned Departments, enforcement agencies and fuel dispensing entities. Such technology-enabled systems integrated with VAHAN and PUC databases can facilitate transparent and effective enforcement of statutory emission compliance requirements;
21. WHEREAS, upon consideration of the prevailing air quality scenario in Delhi-NCR, significant contribution of vehicular emissions to the overall

pollution load, persistent instances of vehicles plying without valid PUC, statutory requirement of PUC compliance under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and feasibility of technology-enabled enforcement mechanisms, the Commission is of the view that coordinated regulatory measures across Delhi-NCR are necessary, in larger public interest, towards effective enforcement of emission norms for abatement of vehicular pollution in the region;

22. NOW, THEREFORE, with a view to abate air pollution caused by vehicles plying without valid PUC in Delhi-NCR, the Commission, in exercise of powers conferred under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, hereby directs as follows:

- (i) **With effect from 01.10.2026**, no fuel shall be dispensed at the fuel stations located within the NCR to vehicles not having a valid PUC, as identified through ANPR system or other technology-enabled systems or otherwise:


Provided that fuelling may be permitted in exceptional situations like medical emergencies, law and order duties, disaster response operations or such other circumstances as may be specified by the GNCTD/NCR State Governments;

- (ii) The concerned authorities in NCT of Delhi/NCR States shall ensure installation, integration and operationalization of suitable technology-enabled enforcement systems like ANPR camera system

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integrated with VAHAN and PUC database, at all fuel stations within their respective jurisdiction **on or before 30.09.2026**.

23. The above Directions of the Commission shall not affect the enforcement of the direction issued by GNCTD vide Notification dated 22.04.2026.
24. All entities owning or operating petrol, diesel, CNG or other fuel dispensing stations in NCR shall comply with these Directions in coordination with the concerned authorities of GNCTD/NCR State Governments.
25. GNCTD/NCR State Governments shall widely disseminate these Directions amongst fuel station operators, PUC Centres and the general public.
26. The Transport Department in NCR States and NCT of Delhi shall be the Nodal Department for ensuring strict compliance with these Directions in letter and spirit.
27. Non-compliance of these Directions of the Commission shall attract penal action in terms of Section 14 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.


(Tarun Kumar Pithode)
Member Secretary
Email: mscaqm-moefcc@gov.in

To,

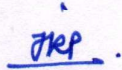
1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, 4th Floor, Civil Secretariat, Sector – I, Chandigarh.
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 101, Lok Bhawan, U. P. Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow -226001.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Government Secretariat, Jaipur- 302 005.
4. The Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, Sectt, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002
5. The Director General of Police, Government of Uttar Pradesh/Haryana/Rajasthan.
6. The Commissioner of Police, Delhi.

Copy to:

1. Secretary, MoEF&CC
2. Secretary, MoRTH
3. Secretary, MoPNG
4. The ACS / Pr. Secretary, Transport Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh/Haryana/ Rajasthan/ NCT of Delhi.
5. The ACS / Pr. Secretary, Environment Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh/Haryana/ Rajasthan/ NCT of Delhi.
6. The concerned ADG / Special Commissioner of Traffic Police, Government of Uttar Pradesh/Haryana/ Rajasthan/ NCT of Delhi.
7. CMDs/MDs of Oil Companies owning/operating fuel pump stations in the NCT of Delhi and NCR States.
8. CMDs/ MDs of Gas Companies owning/operating CNG fuelling stations in NCT of Delhi and NCR States.

Copy also to:

1. The Chairperson and Members of the Commission


(Tarun Kumar Pithode)
Member Secretary