

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, MUMBAI

NOTIFICATION

Date: 09 / 10 / 2026

GUIDELINES FOR CONTAINER FREIGHT STATIONS (CFS), EMPTY CONTAINER YARDS (ECY) AND TRUCK PARKING AREAS

No. MPCB/JD(APC)/TB/B-3398/66 In exercise of the powers conferred under section 17 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 & Sub Section (1), Sub Clause (n) and (o) of Section 17 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board hereby notifies the Guidelines for CONTAINER FREIGHT STATIONS (CFS), EMPTY CONTAINER YARDS (ECY) AND TRUCK PARKING AREAS in the entire State of Maharashtra for control measures to be imposed to abate/mitigate pollution and, to protect environment alongwith public health in the surrounding areas caused by movement of heavy vehicles, handling and stacking of containers, unpaved surfaces and related activities may cause generation and re-suspension of fugitive particulate matter.

1. Background

The Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay has taken Suo Motu cognizance of the deterioration of air quality in Mumbai and surrounding areas in Suo Motu Public Interest Litigation No. 3 of 2023. Various directions have been issued by the Hon'ble High Court from time to time for effective prevention, control and abatement of air pollution and for ensuring implementation of appropriate air-pollution-control measures by the concerned authorities.

A High-Power Committee constituted pursuant to the orders of the Hon'ble High Court is monitoring the implementation of air-pollution-control measures and compliance by the concerned authorities. In view of the aforesaid proceedings and directions, and in exercise of the statutory functions of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board under the applicable environmental laws, it is considered necessary to prescribe specific and enforceable measures for prevention and control of fugitive dust and particulate matter emissions from Container Freight Stations (CFS) and Empty Container Yards (ECY) and Truck Parking areas.

Container Freight Stations (CFS) and Empty Container Yards (ECY) involve movement, handling, loading/unloading and stacking of containers and movement of heavy vehicles within very large premises. Such activities have the potential to generate fugitive dust emissions, particularly particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), from vehicular movement and handling activities.

In order to control fugitive dust emissions and to ensure effective environmental management within CFS/ECY premises, the following guidelines shall be implemented by all concerned CFS/ECY operators.

2. Applicability

These guidelines shall be applicable to all Container Freight Stations (CFS) and Empty Container Yards (ECY) situated in areas where the monthly average Air Quality Index exceeds 50 i.e. Minimal Impact.

These guidelines shall be applicable to all existing and proposed Container Freight Stations (CFS) and Empty Container Yards (ECY) operating within the jurisdiction of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board.

The CFS/ECY and Truck Parking area operator shall be responsible for implementation, operation and maintenance of the prescribed dust-control measures within the premises as well as at the approach area leading to the premises.

3. Guidelines

3.1 Peripheral Fencing / Dust Barrier

- I. Continuous fencing/barricading of tin sheets or other equally effective rigid material of minimum height 25 feet shall be provided along the entire operational periphery of every CFS/ECY and Truck Parking area, subject to applicable safety requirements.
- II. The fencing shall be maintained without gaps, damaged sheets or openings that may permit escape of fugitive dust.
- III. The operator shall periodically inspect the fencing and promptly repair any damaged or loosened portion.

3.2 Automated Tyre / Wheel Washing System

- I. A fully automatic tyre/wheel washing facility of adequate capacity shall be installed and operated at the entry and exit of every CFS/ECY and Truck Parking area.
- II. The system shall wash tyres, wheel wells and lower underbody surfaces sufficiently to prevent mud, soil and dust from being carried from the premises onto approach/public roads or vice-versa.
- III. Vehicle movement shall be channelised so that every outgoing heavy vehicle passes through the tyre/wheel washing facility. Bypass of the system shall not be permitted during normal operations.
- IV. The facility shall have adequate drainage, silt/trap arrangement and, as far as practicable, recirculation/reuse of wash water. Settled solids/sludge shall be periodically removed and disposed of through an environmentally sound mechanism. Water should not flow away in other Owner's lands.

3.3 Container Stacking Area and Surface Stabilisation

- I. Clearly demarcated and visible markings shall be provided for designated container stacking areas, and containers shall be stacked only within such designated areas.
- II. The entire area used for storage/stacking of containers shall, on or before 30/11/2026, be provided with a durable concrete surface. The foundation/base shall be suitably designed and prepared, taking into consideration the height, weight and loading of the containers, to ensure adequate strength, stability and durability to prevent dust formation completely. Suitable concreting should be preferred way for this. The same shall be maintained in a properly compacted and stable condition, without loose fines, potholes, rutting, settlement or exposed soil. The base/foundation shall be periodically inspected to ensure that it continues to provide adequate support and stability for the

containers, considering their height, weight and loading conditions. Where such defects or instability are repeatedly observed, the affected area shall be suitably strengthened and upgraded to a durable paved or concrete surface.

- III. No bare-soil or any other surface shall be permitted in active container stacking or handling areas after **30/11/2026** that can cause fugitive emission of dust.
- IV. Necessary precautions shall be taken during container handling, movement of stackers, forklifts, trailers and other heavy equipment to avoid *cracking, breaking, rutting or other damage* to these areas.
- V. Any damaged surface exposing the underlying soil/sub-base shall be barricaded where necessary and repaired promptly so that the soil layer is not exposed to vehicle movement or wind action and fugitive dust emissions are prevented all the time.

3.4 Internal Roads and Vehicular Movement Areas

- I. All internal roads and regularly used vehicular movement corridors within CFS/ECY, Truck Parking premises shall be concreted on or before **30/11/2026**.
- II. Internal roads shall be designed and maintained for the axle loads and turning movements of heavy container vehicles and handling equipment so as to minimise cracking, potholes, rutting and generation/re-suspension of road dust.
- III. Road shoulders, junctions, turning areas and gate areas shall be stabilised/paved so that vehicle tyres do not repeatedly pass over loose soil.
- IV. The operator shall maintain internal roads and movement areas in good condition and shall undertake prompt repairs wherever the surface is damaged or the underlying soil becomes exposed.

3.5 Mechanical Sweeping and Housekeeping

- I. All concrete/paved surface areas used for roads, container handling, loading/unloading and vehicle movement shall be mechanically swept at-least once every hour during operating hours. They should also be swept so before starting the work of the day and also after the work of the day is over. Sweeping should effectively and fully eliminate dust on the surface.
- II. Mechanical sweeping machines, preferably vacuum/mechanised sweepers suitable for fine road dust, shall be procured and deployed in numbers/capacity commensurate with the total sweepable area, operating hours, traffic intensity and machine productivity so that the prescribed sweeping efficiency can be achieved.
- III. The operator shall prepare a route-wise sweeping plan showing sweepable area, machine capacity, deployment and hourly cycle.
- IV. Sweeping shall be carried out in a manner that does not itself cause visible re-suspension of dust. Dry manual sweeping of large paved operational areas shall be avoided.
- V. Spillages of soil, dust, debris or other particulate material shall be removed immediately and shall not be allowed to accumulate on paved surfaces.

3.6 Collection, Storage and Disposal of Sweeping Dust / Silt

- I. Dust, silt and debris collected by mechanical sweeping machines, tyre-wash silt traps and drain cleaning shall not be dumped on open ground, road shoulders, storm-water drains or any area from which it can be re-entrained into the air.
- II. Collected material shall be transferred directly into closed/covered, designated covered storage area having an impervious floor and protection from wind and rain with adequate sprinklers.

- III. The operator shall ensure that loading, unloading and transportation of the collected dust/silt is carried out in covered vehicles/containers without spillage or fugitive emissions.

3.7 Dust Suppression at Approach Road

- I. The approach area connecting the CFS/ECY and Truck Parking premises with the public road shall be kept free from tracked-out mud and dust and shall be regularly cleaned by above described mechanised means at least once in an hour or with higher frequency as needed to stop fugitive emission of dust effectively.
- II. Water sprinkling/wetting or other suitable dust-suppression measures shall be undertaken whenever required, particularly during dry weather and increased vehicular movement, without creating waterlogging or unsafe road conditions.
- III. Any material deposited on the public/approach road due to vehicles associated with the CFS/ECY and Truck Parking area shall be removed promptly by the operator.
- IV. The operator shall ensure that dust generated from vehicle movement at the approach area does not adversely affect the surrounding area and dust is just not caused there.

3.8 Peripheral Green Belt / Tree Plantation

- I. Adequate tree plantation shall be undertaken along the periphery of the CFS/ECY and Truck Parking plot, in addition to the prescribed physical fencing/dust barrier.
- II. Only native tree species suitable to the local climatic and ecological conditions shall be planted. The trees selected for plantation shall have the potential to attain a minimum height of 4 metres and shall be planted and maintained so as to develop an effective green barrier along the periphery of the premises.
- III. The plantation shall be maintained properly, and survival shall be ensured through regular watering, replacement of dead plants and appropriate maintenance. Any dead or damaged plantation shall be replaced promptly with suitable native species.
- IV. The peripheral plantation shall be developed and maintained as a continuous green barrier, as far as practicable, considering operational and safety requirements of the CFS/ECY.
- V. Bamboo plantation shall be undertaken in suitable green / open spaces available within the CFS / ECY premises, wherever feasible, so as to supplement the peripheral green belt and enhance green cover. The bamboo plantation shall be properly maintained and shall not obstruct internal traffic movement, visibility, drainage, fire-safety arrangements or other operational requirements.

3.9 Parking / Holding Areas Not Utilised for Container Stacking

- I. Separate parking/holding areas for trucks, trailers, staff/visitor vehicles or idle vehicles that are not utilised for container stacking shall be clearly demarcated and physically segregated from container stacking and handling zones.
- II. Parking/holding areas subjected to regular heavy-vehicle movement shall have a stable, dust-free paved/concrete surface. Bare soil or any surface causing dust emission shall not be permitted on portions with regular vehicular movement / parking.
- III. Such parking areas shall be mechanically cleaned at a frequency adequate to prevent visible dust accumulation and, where they form part of the continuously trafficked paved operational area, shall be included in the hourly mechanical sweeping plan.
- IV. Entry/exit tracks, turning areas and shoulders of parking areas shall be maintained so that vehicles do not carry soil or mud onto internal/public roads.

- V. Idling of heavy vehicles shall be minimised. Traffic circulation, parking bays and waiting queues shall be managed to avoid congestion and unnecessary re-suspension of dust.
- VI. No loose soil, excavated material, waste, debris or dusty material shall be stored in parking areas. Any incidental material shall be kept in covered/designated storage and removed promptly.
- VII. Storm-water drainage shall be maintained so that runoff from parking areas does not carry accumulated silt/dust to public roads or drains. Silt traps, wherever provided, shall be cleaned periodically and the recovered silt shall be managed in accordance with Clause 3.6.
- VIII. Parking areas that are genuinely unused/un-trafficked may be maintained as stabilised/vegetated areas, provided they do not become a source of wind-blown dust and are not subsequently used for vehicle movement without appropriate surface treatment.
- IX. Area under the vehicles that are parked for time long enough to cause visible dust accumulation below them should also be cleaned every hour.
- X. Adequate toilet and urinal facilities shall be provided for drivers, helpers, workers, security personnel and other persons using the parking / holding area.
- XI. Domestic sewage generated from toilet, urinals facilities shall be collected and treated through an appropriate sewage treatment arrangements. Where, connection to an authorized sewerage network is not available an adequate design septic tank followed by soak-pit and disposal arrangement shall be provided.

4. Responsibility of CFS/ECY and Truck Parking area Operator

- I. Implementation of all applicable measures prescribed under these guidelines within the stipulated timelines.
- II. Regular operation and maintenance of pollution-control and dust-suppression systems.
- III. Ensuring that vehicular movement, parking and container handling activities do not result in avoidable fugitive dust emissions.
- IV. Ensuring proper housekeeping and maintenance of internal roads, container stacking areas, parking/holding areas and other movement areas.
- V. Providing adequate manpower, equipment and standby arrangements so that failure/maintenance of one sweeping or tyre-washing unit does not result in prolonged non-compliance.
- VI. Ensuring environmentally sound collection, storage and disposal of dust/silt generated from sweeping, tyre washing and drainage systems.

5. Compliance and Verification

The concerned CFS/ECY and Truck Parking shall comply with these guidelines and make necessary arrangements for effective implementation of the prescribed measures.

Compliance with time-bound infrastructure requirements, including concreting of internal roads and treatment of container stacking/storage areas by 15/10/2026, shall be verified through site inspection, records and other evidence as required by MPCB.

The implementation and effectiveness of these measures shall be verified by the concerned authorities of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board during inspection, as and when required. MPCB may prescribe additional site-specific measures where fugitive dust remains inadequately controlled.

6. Bank Guarantee for Compliance and Operation & Maintenance

Every CFS/ECY operator to whom these Guidelines are applicable shall submit Bank Guarantees in favour of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board as follows:

- I. **Bank Guarantee towards Compliance:** A Bank Guarantee of Rs. 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh only) shall be furnished for ensuring implementation and compliance with the infrastructure, pollution-control and other requirements prescribed under these Guidelines within the stipulated timelines.
- II. **Bank Guarantee towards Operation and Maintenance:** A separate Bank Guarantee of Rs. 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh only) shall be furnished for ensuring continuous and effective operation and maintenance of all pollution-control measures, systems and infrastructure provided in accordance with these Guidelines.
- III. The Bank Guarantees shall be submitted in the prescribed format in favour of Concern Regional Office and shall remain valid for five years.
- IV. In the event of non-compliance with any requirement of these Guidelines, failure to achieve compliance within the stipulated timeline, or failure to properly operate and maintain the prescribed pollution-control measures, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board may invoke / forfeit the respective Bank Guarantee, wholly or partly, after following the applicable procedure.
- V. Furnishing of the Bank Guarantees shall not excuse the CFS/ECY operator from compliance with these Guidelines or from any action that may be initiated under the applicable environmental laws, Consent conditions, directions or other statutory requirements.

7. General Conditions

- I. The measures prescribed under these guidelines shall be implemented without prejudice to the conditions stipulated under the applicable Consent to Establish/Consent to Operate, Environmental Clearance, authorization or any other statutory permission, wherever applicable.
 - II. The CFS/ECY and Truck Parking area operator shall comply with all applicable environmental laws, rules, regulations, standards and directions issued by competent authorities from time to time. They are required to obtain consent from MPCB
 - III. Any modification or additional measure considered necessary for prevention and control of fugitive dust emissions may be prescribed by the competent authority based on site-specific conditions.
 - IV. Non-compliance with the prescribed requirements may attract appropriate action under applicable environmental laws and directions of the competent authority.
 - V. These guidelines are applicable throughout the State of Maharashtra and shall come into force from the date of issue of the Notification, subject to the specific compliance timelines prescribed herein.
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