

REVISED NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NEQS)

Background

- PEPC in its first meeting held on 10th May 1993 approved the NEQS.
- The approved NEQS were uniform standards applicable to all kind of industrial and municipal effluent.
- There are 32 parameters prescribing permissible levels of pollutants in liquid effluent while 16 parameters for gaseous emission.
- In April 1996, the PEPC set up an Environmental Standards Committee (ESC) headed by Mr. Shams Kasim Lakha to review, inter alia, the NEQS and suggest changes where necessary, based on conditions in Pakistan.

- The committee realized that some of the parameters were more stringent than other countries of the region, so the task of the rationalization of NEQS was referred to an Expert Advisory committee to review and suggest changes, if and where required.
- Before initiating the task, the Expert Committee was expanded to include representatives of trade and industry.
- The Expert Committee identified ten parameters – eight (8) liquid effluent viz. BOD; COD; TDS; Chloride; Sulphide; Chromium; Ammonia; and Temperature, and two (2) gaseous emissions viz. SO₂ (Sulphur di oxide) and Oxides of Nitrogen for review.
- After consultation with various organizations the NEQS Expert Advisory Committee completed its task and proposed it to the ESC.
- Finally after the Environmental Standards Committee endorsed the proposed revised NEQS, the Pakistan Environmental Protection Council was recommended to approve the revised draft NEQS.
- In December 28, 1999. PEPC approved the revised NEQS.

| S.No | Parameter | Existing Standards | Revised Standards | | |
|------|---|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | Into Inland Water | Into Sewage Treatment ⁵ | Into Sea ⁶ |
| 1. | Temperature or Temperature increase | 40°C | =<3 °C | =< 3 °C | =<3 °C |
| 2. | pH value | 6-10 pH | 6 - 9 | 6 - 9 | 6 - 9 |
| 3. | 5-days Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₅) at 20°C ¹ | 80 mg/l. | 80 | 250 | 80** |
| 4. | Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) ¹ | 150 mg/l. | 150 | 400 | 400 |
| 5. | Total suspended solids | 150 mg/l. | 200 | 400 | 200 |
| 6. | Total dissolved solids | 3500 mg/l. | 3500 | 3500 | 3500 |
| 7. | Grease and oil | 10 mg/l. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 8. | Phenolic compounds (as phenol) | 0.1 mg/l. | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| 9. | Chloride (as Cl) | 1000 mg/l. | 1000 | 1000 | SC |
| 10. | Fluoride (as F) | 20 mg/l. | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 11. | Cyanide (as CN) total | 2 mg/l. | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 12. | An-ionic detergents ² (as MBAS) | 20 mg/l. | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| 13. | Sulphate (SO ₄) | 600 mg/l. | 600 | 1000 | SC |
| 14. | Sulphide (S) | 1.0 mg/l. | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 15. | Ammonia (NH ₃) | 40 mg/l. | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| 16. | Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and insecticides ³ | 0.15 mg/l. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 |

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ASSIGNMENT: WWE

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