

Notification of Rules Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, and Subsequent Amendments

Under these rules, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, has laid down industry-specific standards for emissions and discharge of effluents for about 60 industries including the fertilizer industry. These standards have been evolved taking into consideration the nature of the wastes, the technoeconomic feasibility of treatment, and the impact on the environment. They are not the ultimate targets of pollution control but are the baseline requirements. As mentioned earlier, these standards are overriding and binding. The environmental protection standards laid down under the EP Rules for straight nitrogen fertilizer plants and phosphate fertilizer plants are given in [Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#), respectively, and are the same as the Minimal National Standards (MINAS) as specified under the Water/Air Acts. From these tables, it is clear that two different sets of standards are in force - one for plants commissioned prior to January 1982 and the other for plants commissioned after January 1, 1982.

The Act does not specify any separate standards for effluents used for irrigation, disposed into the sea, or injected into the soil or deep wells.

The Environment Protection Third Amendment Rules enacted in 1989 stipulates the ambient air quality standards with respect to noise. During 1999 the Central Government under Environment (Protection) Rule, 1986 enacted The Noise Pollution (Control and Regulation) Rules, 1999. These rules specify ambient noise standards for different areas as given in [Table 3](#).

Under the Air Act, the ambient air quality standard were prescribed for categories of areas with respect to suspended particulate matter, SO₂, CO and NO_x. Subsequently these rules were amended in 1994 to include Lead and Respirable Particulate matter. Also method of measurement for the pollutant parameters were prescribed. The same ambient air quality standards were notified under Environment Protection Act during 1996 and is given in [Table 4](#). During 1998, the Central Pollution Control Board notified the Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ammonia, under the Air Act and is given in [Table 5](#).

In 1993 through yet another set of Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, general standards were enforced for the discharge of effluents to cover all those industries, operations, and processes that were not specified in Schedule 1 of the original Environment Protection Rules. Furthermore, through the same notification, wastewater generation standards for various categories of industries, including the fertilizer industry, were enforced. The wastewater generation standards for the fertilizer industry are given in [Table 6](#).
