

To be substituted with same number and date

No STE-STE010/427/2020-STE3/269909

Government of Punjab  
Department of Science, Technology Environment  
(STE Branch)

Dated: 26-10-2021

**Subject: Regulation of sale and use of fire crackers in the State of Punjab in compliance to order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.**

**ORDER**

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic through which the Country and the State of Punjab is passing through and considering the approaching winter season during which the elderly, children, persons with co-morbidities and others, may develop respiratory problems;

whereas, the festive season of Diwali, Gurupurab, Christmas and New Year Eve is approaching during which people usually burst crackers, which can adversely affect the respiratory health of vulnerable groups, besides aggravating health condition of COVID-19 positive persons;

and whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide judgment dated 23.10.2018 and order dated 31.10.2018 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) no.728 of 2015 titled as Arjun Gopal and others v/s Union of India and other connected matters had issued certain directions relating to the use of firecrackers for compliance by the State Governments;

and whereas, considering the adverse impact of pollution by use of fire crackers, aggravated risk to lives and health during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal had issued certain directions for compliance by the States with regard to the use of fire crackers vide order dated 09.11.2020 passed in Original Application No. 249 of 2020 titled as Tribunal on its own Motion v/s Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and others and other connected matters;

and whereas, in order to draw a balance between the potentially harmful consequences of bursting of crackers amidst the COVID-19 pandemic situation on the health of citizens and the economic impact on small traders and keeping in view the order dated 23.10.2018 and 31.10.2018 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 728 of 2015, the order dated 9.11.2020 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A No. 249 of 2020 and other connected matters, the State Government in exercise of the powers delegated by the Central Government u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, hereby prohibit, restrict and regulate the sale and use of fire crackers in the State of Punjab by issuing the following directions in addition to Guidelines under Explosive Rules, 2008 issued by the Department of industries & Commerce vide memo no. Tech./ Explosive Rules/part-11/10236A dated 05.10.2020:-

- a) The manufacture, stock, distribute, sale and use of joined firecrackers (series

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crackers or laries) is hereby banned in whole of the State.

b) Only the green crackers (those crackers that do not use barium salts or compounds of antimony, lithium, mercury arsenic, lead or strontium, chromate) would be allowed for sale and use in the State of Punjab.

c) The sale shall only be through licensed traders and it shall be ensured that the licensed traders are selling the fire crackers, which are permitted. No licensee shall store, display or sell Joined firecrackers (series of crackers or laries) and firecrackers that use barium salts or compounds of antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic, lead or strontium chromate in the manufacture of fireworks.

d) Thus sale and use of any kind of fire crackers is prohibited in the cities of Mandi Gobindgarh and Jalandhar from midnight of 28-29 October of 2021 to the midnight of 31 December of 2021– 01 January of 2022 in terms of order dated 09-11-2020 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A No. 249 of 2020 and other connected matters as the average air quality index for the month of November 2020 of Mandi Gobindgarh and Jalandhar has remained in poor category.

e) In the State, only green crackers would be allowed and strictly for a very short duration on the following days and time:

Festival	Day	Time for bursting of the crackers
Diwali	4 November, 2021	From 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Gurupurab	19 November, 2021	From 4:00 am to 05:00 am and From 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Christmas Eve	25- 26, December, 2021	From 11:55 pm till 12:30 am
New Year Eve	31 December of 2021 – 01 January of 2022	From 11:55 pm till 12:30 am

f) An endeavor shall be made to explore the possibility of community fire cracking. For promoting Community fire cracking, particular area/fields would be pre-identified and pre-designated by the concerned authorities immediately and the same shall be publicized for information of the public at large.

g) Special drive to contain air pollution from all sources shall be undertaken in view of potential of aggravation of Covid-19.

h) No e-commerce websites including Flipkart, Amazon, etc, shall accept any online orders and effect online sales within the State of Punjab.

i) Extensive public awareness campaign shall be undertaken by the Deputy Commissioners informing the public about the harmful effects of fire crackers.

j) The police authorities shall ensure that the sale and use of allowed green firecrackers only take place during the permitted time and at designated places.

k) The Punjab Pollution Control Board shall carry out short term monitoring in

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the selected cities of the State starting from 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 to 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, for the parameters namely, Aluminum, Barium, Iron apart from the regulatory parameters against the short-term Ambient Air Quality Criteria Values (AAQCVs) proposed by CPCB with regard to bursting of firecrackers.

1) The District Magistrates shall exercise the powers under Explosive Rules, 2008 in a fair and judicious manner in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government of Punjab, Department of Industries and Commerce.

Any violation of the directions aforementioned will invite immediate penal action under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 besides legal action under Section 188 of the IPC and other provisions as applicable.

**(Dilip Kumar, IAS)**  
**Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,**  
**Department of Science, Technology and Environment.**

**Endst No. STE-STEB010/427/2020-STE3/269909 Dated 26-10-2021**

1. All the Administrative Secretaries in the State of Punjab.
2. Director General of Police, Punjab, Chandigarh.
3. All the Deputy Commissioners in the State of Punjab.
4. All the Commissioners of Police / Senior Superintendent of Police in the State of Punjab.
5. Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board.

  
**Manjeet Singh Randhawa**  
**Superintendent**