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KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ, തിരുവനന്തപുരം 695 004



KSPCB/841/2024-SEE-1

Date:20-09-2025

CIRCULAR

Subject: Treated effluent standards for sewage treatment plants

Ref:

1. Order dated 30/04/2019 of the Hon'ble NGT Principal Bench in OA 1069 of 2018
2. Letter no. D.O Q-12011/9/2023-CPHEEO dated 18/12/2023 of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India
3. Minutes of High Level Technical Committee held on 13/08/2025

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in OA 1069 of 2018 had, vide Order dated 30/04/2019 in OA 1069 of 2018 (ref 1), had directed to follow the effluent standards, issued therein the order, for all new & existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs).

Based on the Order of the Hon'ble NGT (ref 1), the norms for recycling and reuse of wastewater for specific uses given in the Manual on Sewage and Sewerage Treatment Systems, 2013 have been reviewed and amended by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs as in letter referred 2nd (copy enclosed as Annexure).

The matter was examined in the High Level Technical Committee held on 13/08/2025. Accordingly, it is clarified that, for all STPs in the state, whether stand-alone or attached to establishments, the treated sewage quality standards shall be as specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Effluent Standards for Sewage Treatment Plants

Parameters	Tolerance Limit for each mode of disposal		
	Soakpit/ Discharge to surface water	Gardening/Irrigation/ flushing/car washing/ other non-contact uses	Into public drain
pH	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5	6.5-8.5
Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₃²⁷) (3 days, 27°C) (mg/l)	<10	<6	<6
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) (mg/l)	<50	<25	<25
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/l)	<20	<20	<20

Oil & Grease (mg/l)	<10	<10	<10
Nitrogen-Total (mg/l)	<10	<10	<10
Phosphorus-Total (mg/l)	<1	-	<1
Fecal Coliform (FC) (MPN/100 ml)	<100	<100	<100

The new standards shall be complied within 6 months from the date of issue of this circular.

Signed by **CHAIRPERSON**

Sreekala S

Date: 20-09-2025 15:18:32

To

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer,
Regional Office, Thiruvananthapuram /Ernakulam/Kozhikode.
2. The Senior Environmental Engineer,
District Office Wayanad, Kannur
3. The Environmental Engineer, District Office,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alapuzha, Kottayam,
Idukki, Ernakulam-1, Ernakulam-2, Environmental Surveillance Centre,
Eloor, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kasargod.

Copy to:-

1. All Technical Staff in HO
2. IT Cell (for uploading in the website)
3. C.A. to CHN, MS & CEE HO

ANNEXURE

डी० थारा, आई.ए.एस.

अपर सचिव

D. Thara, I.A.S.

Additional Secretary



भारत सरकार
आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS



D.O Q-12011/9/2023-CPHEEO,

Dated 18.12.2023

Dear

Sir / Madam,

As you are aware, the Hon'ble NGT has given direction vide its order dated 30.04.2019 mandating States/ULBs to adhere to the following effluent standards from new & existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for all cities & towns in the country.

Industry	Parameters	Standards(Applicable to all mode of disposal)
Sewage Treatment Plants (STP)	pH	5.5-9.0
	Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), mg/l	10
	Total Suspended Solids (TSS), mg/l	20
	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), mg/l	50
	Nitrogen-Total, mg/l	10
	Phosphorus-Total (For Discharge into Ponds, Lakes), mg/l	1.0
	Fecal Coliform (FC)(Most Probable Number per 100 milliliter, MPN/100 ml)	Desirable- 100 Permissible-230

2. Keeping in view of the above direction of Hon'ble NGT, the existing norms for recycle and reuse of wastewater for specific uses given at Table 7.19 of the Manual on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Systems, 2013, published by the Ministry, has been reviewed by the Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry. The norms mentioned in the Manual do not provide the norms for recreational use, an aspect that is crucial in comprehensive recycling & reuse of treated sewage.

3. The norms have been reviewed and amended aligning with the various International standards and norms as per BIS17663 (2021) as the amendment is a proactive step toward providing recycling and reuse of wastewater for non-potable applications such as toilet flushing, fire protection, vehicle exterior washing, recreational use (bathing etc.), non-contact impoundments (tanks, lakes etc.), horticulture, golf course, non-edible crops, crops which are eaten raw and cooked. A copy of the amended norms provided in the Table 7.19 of the Manual on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Systems, 2013 is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

I request you to direct the concerned Departments/ PHED/ Jal Nigams/ Water Boards and Agriculture Department etc. to adopt the amended norms for recycling and reuse of wastewater for specific activities in place of Table 7.19 of the Manual on Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Systems, 2013 by all the States/UTs, Parastatal Agencies, and other stakeholders.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(D.Thara)

To,

1. Principal Secretary/Secretary (UD/PHED), for kind reference and necessary action.
2. Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, for kind reference and necessary action.
3. State Mission Director (AMRUT) of all states, for kind reference and necessary action.

Annexure – I

Table 7.19 Recommended norms of treated sewage quality for specified activities at point of use (Modified)

S. No.	Parameter	Toilet Flushing	Fire protection	Vehicle Exterior washing	Recreational use (bathing etc.)	Non-contact impoundments (tanks, lakes etc.)	Landscaping, Horticulture & Agriculture				
							Horticulture, Golf course	Non edible crops	Crops		
									Crops which are eaten		
Raw	Cooked										
1	Turbidity (NTU)	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	AA	AA	AA	AA	
2	SS	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	
3	TDS	2100									
4	pH	6.5 to 8.5									
5	Temperature	Ambient									
6	Oil & Grease	10	nil	nil	nil	nil	10	10	nil	nil	
7	Total Nitrogen as TN	10	10	10	10	10	AA	AA	AA	AA	
8	BOD	≤6	10	≤6	≤6*	10	≤6-10 (≤6 preferred)				
9	COD	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	
10	Total Phosphorous as TP	1	1	1	1	1	AA	AA	AA	AA	
11	Minimum Residual Chlorine	1	1	1	≤0.5	0.5	nil	nil	nil	nil	
12	Faecal Coliform in 100 ml	nil	nil	nil	≤50	100	nil	100	nil	≤50	
13	Helminthic Eggs/ litre	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA	<1	<1	<1	
14	Colour (Colour or Hazen units)	Colourless						AA	Colourless		
15	Odour	Aseptic which means not specific and no foul odour									

All values are in mg/l except for Turbidity, pH, Temperature, Faecal Coliform, Helminthic Eggs, Colour and Odour.

AA- as Arising when other parameters are satisfied.

*CPCB prescribes BOD less than 3 mg/l in water body for recreational purpose. Adequate storage shall be maintained in the water body for dilution to maintain 3 mg/l.