

10 June 1998

EMB Circular No.3/1998
(Formerly referred as Schools Miscellaneous Circular No. 3/98)

Air Pollution Index

[Note : This circular should be read by

- (a) Supervisors/Heads of all Schools - for necessary action
- (b) Heads of Sections - for information]

The purpose of this circular is to inform supervisors and heads of schools that the Environmental Protection Department will add an index for roadside location ^[a] under the “Air Pollution Index” (API), which provides a simple and uniform way to report daily air pollution concentrations and to serve as a basis for issuing advice to the public before the onset of air pollution episodes.

2. Supervisors and heads of schools are advised to note for information and necessary action the recommended measures to be taken in the event of high API listed in paragraph 3 below.

3. **Recommended measures to be taken in the event of high API**

- (i) If the API or forecast ^[b] is within the range of 101 and 200 ^[c], heads of schools are advised to arrange for susceptible students (i.e. students with heart or respiratory illnesses) ^[d] to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities. These susceptible students should be advised to refrain from participating in activities such as physical education lessons and sporting events in sports day / swimming gala to be held in the affected zone.

- (ii) In the unlikely event that the API or forecast is within the range of 201 and 500 ^[e], heads of schools are advised to arrange for all students to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activities. Activities such as physical education lessons and sports day / swimming gala to be held in the affected zone should be suspended, cancelled or postponed.

4. This circular replaces Schools Miscellaneous Circular No. 77/95 dated 7 June 1995.

Notes :

- [a] *Schools with playground at ground level and within ten metres from busy roads and trunk roads with heavy traffic and major bus routes are advised to observe the index for roadside location. This also applies when schools conduct activities in places outside the school which are located at less than ten metres from the busy roads and trunk roads mentioned.*
- [b] *Schools will be notified by fax by the Environmental Protection Department through the Education Department if the API or forecast exceeds 100. Information on up-to-date API may also be obtained directly by dialling 2827 8541.*
- [c] *About 5 to 6 times per year according to previous records.*
- [d] *It may be helpful to maintain, in consultation with parents, a list of susceptible students.*
- [e] *This condition has never happened in the past seven years.*

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for Director of Education