

Goan industrial units seek CPCB exemption in retrofitting gensets

Goan industrial units are seeking an exemption from a directive issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which mandates the retrofitting of emission control devices on DG sets with a capacity of 125 KVA or higher. The Goan industrial sector argues that the emissions from generator sets in the state are already low, and the costs associated with retrofitting emission control devices (RECD) are impractical for businesses.

The Goan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GOCI) submitted this request for exemption to the CPCB on a recent Monday. In their letter, GOCI highlights that generators in the state primarily operate in standby mode, with an average usage of less than 250 hours annually, resulting in minimal overall utilization.

GOCI's communication to the CPCB asserts that, given the low emissions produced by generators in Goa, the state should be excluded from the CPCB's regulatory order. The letter clarifies that generator sets in Goa are only activated during power outages and are not in constant operation, resulting in lower particulate matter emissions compared to other regions.

Furthermore, the letter points out that Goa has a relatively low population density, leading to a limited impact of generator sets on air quality. It emphasizes that the state's tropical climate and consistent humidity levels throughout the year contribute to lower concentrations of particulate matter in the air compared to other parts of India.

The communication also reveals that air pollution in Goa primarily stems from vehicular and industrial sources, traditional cooking methods, waste burning, construction activities, among others, rather than generator usage.

Concluding their letter, the GCCI suggests that the evidence supporting the effectiveness of RECD devices in reducing emissions is inconclusive, underscoring the need for further research in this area.