

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR  
MUNICIPAL AND LIQUID INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS (mg/l,  
UNLESS OTHERWISE DEFINED)**

S. No	Parameter	Existing Standards	Revised Standards		
			Into Inland Waters	Into Sewage Treatment	Into Sea ( )
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Temperature or Temperature Increase *	40°C	=<3°C	=<3°C	=<3°C
2	pH value	6 - 10	6 - 9	6 - 9	6 - 9
3	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) <sub>5</sub> at 20°C (1)	80	80	250	80**
4	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)(1)	150	150	400	400
5	Total suspended solids (TSS)	150	200	400	200
6	Total dissolved solids (TDS)	3500	3500	3500	3500
7	Grease and oil	10	10	10	10
8	Phenolic compounds (as phenol)	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
9	Chloride (as Cl')	1000	1000	1000	SC***
10	Fluoride (as F')	20	10	10	10
11	Cyanide (as CN') total	2	1.0	1.0	1.0
12	An-ionic detergents (as MBAs) (')	20	20	20	20
13	Sulphate (SO <sup>2-</sup> )	600	600	1000	SC***
14	Sulphide (S')	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
15	Ammonia (NH)	40	40	40	40
16	Pesticides (3)	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
17	Cadmium (4)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
18	Chromium (trivalent and hexavalent)(1)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
19	Copper (4)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
20	Lead (4)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
21	Mercury (4)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
22	Selenium (4)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
23	Nickel (4)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
24	Silver (4)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

25	Total Toxic metals	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
26	Zinc	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
27	Arsenic ( <sup>4</sup> )	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
28	Barium ( <sup>4</sup> )	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
29	Iron	2.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
30	Manganese	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
31	Boron ( <sup>4</sup> )	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
32	Chlorine	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

**Explanations:**

1. Assuming minimum dilution 1:10 on discharge, lower ratio would attract progressively stringent standards to be determined by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. By 1:10 dilution means, for example that for each one cubic meter of treated effluent, the recipient water body should have 10 cubic meter of water for dilution of this effluent.
2. Modified Benzene Alkyl Sulphate; assuming surfacetant as biodegradable.
3. Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.
4. Subject to total toxic metals discharge should not exceed level given at S. No. 25.
5. Applicable only when and where sewage treatment is operational and BOD=80 mg/l is achieved by the sewage treatment system.
6. Provided discharge is not at shore and not within 10 miles of mangrove or other important estuaries.

\* The effluent should not result in temperature increase of more than 3°C at the edge of the zone where initial mixing and dilution take place in the receiving body. In case zone is not defined, use 100 meters from the point of discharge.

\*\* The value for industry is 200 mg / l.

\*\*\* Discharge concentration at or below sea concentration (SC).

- Note:-
1. Dilution of liquied effluents to bring them to the NEQS limiting value is not permissible through fresh water mixing with the effluent before discharging into the environment.
  2. The concentration of pollutants in water being used will be subtracted from the effluent for calculating the NEQS limits.