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(ACE Paper 27/98)
for Information

Air Pollution Index

Introduction

This is to inform Members that starting from 15 June 1998, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will be reporting a new roadside air pollution index (API) and will adopt a new set of 5-band descriptors for various air pollution levels.

The New Roadside Air Pollution Index

2. A daily air pollution index (API) has been reported in Hong Kong since June 1995. Similar systems are also used in many cities in the world. The API aims to report the ambient air quality which people are exposed to for most of the time at places such as homes or offices.

3. Starting from 15 June 1998, the EPD will add a roadside API to the report. The new roadside API represents the air quality very close to vehicle emission sources in urban busy roads. At the same time, EPD will also report an API for each of the monitoring stations as well as use a new set of 5-band descriptors for different ranges of API levels to better reflect the seriousness of persistent air pollution levels.

4. Information about the new system is given in the pamphlet attached. Enclosed is also a set of "Questions and Answers on the Air Pollution Index and Forecast System" which gives detailed information and relevant background materials about the new system. For further enquiries, Members are welcome to call the hotline number listed in the pamphlet or contact the Air Services Group of EPD at 2564 6300.

Environmental Protection Department
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