

Module 3.4 POLLUTION CONTROL		STATEMENT OF INTENT Significant pollution of the environment is prevented, contained, minimised or remedied
Measures		Notes
Legal requirement	<p><b>Air pollution is avoided, or where it cannot be avoided, is minimised:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restrictions on burning at weekends and other periods when burning is prohibited, are complied with</li> <li>Provincial traffic authorities are advised when burning along public roads</li> <li>Safe practices are followed when burning along public roads</li> </ul>	<p>The primary legislation governing pollution control is the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). "Pollution" is defined, and includes any change in the environment caused by any substances, noise, odour and/or dust. NEMA places a general duty of care on all persons to prevent significant pollution (or degradation) of the environment, and where pollution has occurred, to minimize and rectify that pollution or degradation. Farmers therefore have a duty to be proactive to ensure that farming activities do not cause air, water or land pollution.</p> <p>Farmers must also be aware that where there has been an emergency incident which has caused or may cause pollution or degradation of the environment, or harm to any person, farmers must immediately report the incident to the relevant authorities, to take steps to clean up after such incident, and to follow the procedures set out in section 30 of NEMA.</p> <p>Air pollution as a result of burning should be avoided, or where it cannot be avoided, is minimised (Refer to SASRI Information Sheets 4.7 – 'The pros and cons of trashing/burning at harvest' and 4.8 – 'Industrial guidelines for burning sugarcane'). Green cane harvesting (trashing) should be encouraged wherever possible.</p>
Better Management Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas sensitive to burning are identified e.g. public roads, residential areas, beaches, power lines, etc.</li> <li>Barrier of unburnt cane left adjacent to sensitive areas</li> <li>Consider weather forecasters and local knowledge as to the advisability and time of burning</li> <li>Plan the harvest programme so that there are always fields that may be green cane harvested or safely burned if burning is inadvisable</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reduction of impact to the environment</b></p> <p>The objective would be to reduce where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The smuts from fires falling onto sensitive areas, e.g. residential, schools, beaches, etc.</li> <li>The smoke from cane fires constituting a hazard to road users and annoyance to the public.</li> <li>Disruption of power supply.</li> </ul> <p><b>The correct code of practice would be to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the sensitive areas in each region, e.g. public roads, residential areas, beaches, power lines, etc.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Better Management Practice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise authorities whenever an unintended burn occurs</li> <li>• Record fields burnt, date and time of burn</li> <li>• Cane in stacks in the fields or on the zones should not be burnt</li> <li>• Cane under power lines flattened before burning to prevent arcing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate with the local authorities regarding the intended practices and the intention to fully co-operate.</li> <li>• Adhere to the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 101 of 1998</li> <li>• Leave a barrier of unburnt cane adjacent to the identified sensitive areas; the barrier zone should be burnt only when there is no alternative, for example, at the time of re-establishment and then only when the wind is in the right direction.</li> <li>• Be advised by the weather forecasters and local knowledge as to the advisability and time of burning.</li> <li>• Map areas of the farm for burning/mulching according to the agronomic/economic and environmental factors.</li> <li>• Plan the harvest programme so that there are always fields that may be green cane harvested or safely burned if burning is inadvisable.</li> <li>• Advise authorities (FPA) whenever an unintended burn occurs near sensitive areas.</li> <li>• Near sensitive areas record the fields burnt, date and time of burn.</li> <li>• Cane in stacks in the fields or on the zones should not be burnt as it is ineffective and can be a hazard.</li> <li>• Cane under power lines should be flattened before burning to prevent the possibility of arcing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safety Management</b></p> <p>Burning along public roads can be hazardous. Advise provincial traffic authorities of each and every burn. Road signs indicating 'burning in progress, slow down, switch on headlights, smoke hazard etc. should be used together with flashing lights and waving of red flags at both ends of the burn.</p>
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