

## Plastic Waste Management Rules 2018

### Why in news?

\n\n

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018.

\n\n

### What is the amendment about?

\n\n

\n

- In 2016, Union government implemented the Plastic Waste Management Rules and Solid Waste Management Rules.

\n

- But the rules faced various challenges.

\n

- Based on representations received from various stakeholders, MoEF&CC had constituted a committee to resolve such issues.

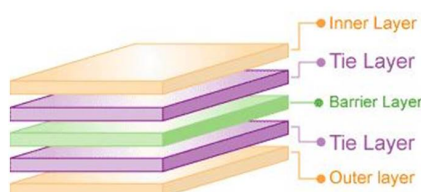
\n

- The amendments are based on recommendations submitted to the Ministry.

\n

\n\n

### Multi-layer Barrier Film Schematic and Examples of Packaged Food Products



- tie layer: coextruded film or adhesive
- typical barrier film: PVOH, aluminum
- inner layer can be heat-sealable polymer
- outer layer may include printed graphics



\n\n

## What are the highlights?

\n\n

- \n
- The phasing out of Multi-layered Plastic (MLP) is now applicable only to MLP that are “non-recyclable or non-energy recoverable or have no alternate use”.
- \n
- MLP is most widely used in food packing Industries.
- \n
- The amended Rules prescribe a central registration system for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner.
- \n
- The system will be evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- \n
- National registry has been prescribed for producers with presence in more than two states.
- \n
- A state-level registration has been prescribed for smaller producers/brand owners operating within one or two states.
- \n
- Any mechanism for the registration should be automated.
- \n
- It should take into account ease of doing business for producers, recyclers and manufacturers.
- \n

\n\n

## What are the shortfalls?

\n\n

- \n
- **Dilution** - Many significant provisions of the earlier plastic waste management policy, 2016 have been discarded or diluted now.
- \n
- The Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2018 has omitted the explicit pricing of carry bags mentioned in 2016 rule.
- \n
- **MLP** - Multi-layered plastics are supposed to be phased out.
- \n
- But these have been given a fresh lease of life by easing the norms concerned.

- \n
- Only MLP that are “non-recyclable or non-energy recoverable or have no alternate use” are to be phased out.
- \n
- This leaves hardly any category of multi-layered plastics to be phased out.
- \n
- Any product can be claimed to have some alternate use to escape the bar.
- \n
- **Producers** - The new norms seem to have been crafted with an eye on ease of doing business.
- \n
- This seems to be happening at the cost of the environment and public health due to plastic use.
- \n
- “Extended producer responsibility” bound plastic producers, importers and brand owners.
- \n
- They are required to ensure environmentally sound management of their products till the end of their useful life.
- \n
- The new policy is soft on “extended producer responsibility”.
- \n

\n\n

### **What are the concerns with plastic toxicity in India?**

\n\n

- \n
- India is reckoned to generate over 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day.
- \n
- The residues can stain the environment and natural resources for hundreds of years.
- \n
- Plastic toxicity is known for its enduring adverse effects on territorial and aquatic life.
- \n
- In food, it can alter human hormones to cause major life-threatening diseases.
- \n
- Plastic materials, especially bags and bottles strewn on roads, have been noticed to cause flooding by blocking drains.
- \n
- They also kill stray cattle by choking.
- \n

\n\n

## What is the way forward?

\n\n

- \n
  - Plastics are not totally dispensable as their use seems desirable in certain situations.
  - \n
    - In fields like agriculture and automobiles, packaging, information technology and biomedical industries, they are relevant.
    - \n
      - But their non-degradability and emission of toxic gases on combustion and incineration are growing concerns.
      - \n
        - It is thus imperative to manage plastic debris appropriately.
        - \n
          - It would be advisable to reassess the new set of rules and switch back to the 2016 plastic waste management norms.

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: PIB, Business Standard**

\n

