

## **What is EPR?**

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** in the context of Waste management is driven by legislation to factor in the environmental cost of ensuring cradle to grave cost of a product with a focus on **end of use consumer products to maximise recycling /reuse and minimise the impact of waste material on the environment.**

EPR is an environmental protection strategy to reach an environmental objective of a decreased total environmental impact of a product, by making the manufacturer of the product responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product and especially for the take-back, recycling and final disposal.

**The major change in 2016 was to define the responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBO) for plastic introduced into the market making them accountable by registering with the Central Pollution Control Board or State Pollution Control Board and submitting a plan for collection of plastic waste, either directly themselves through an agency or by partnering with Local Urban Bodies.**

### **Salient Features of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**

- 1.** Rural areas have been brought in ambit of these Rules since plastic has reached to rural areas also. Responsibility for implementation of the rules is given to Gram Panchayat.
- 2.** First time, responsibility of waste generators is being introduced. Individual and bulk generators like offices, commercial establishments, industries are to segregate the plastic waste at source, handover segregated waste, pay user fee as per bye-laws of the local bodies.
- 3.** Plastic products are left littered after the public events (marriage functions, religious gatherings, public meetings etc) held in open spaces. First time, persons organising such events have been made responsible for management of waste generated from these events.
- 4.** Use of plastic sheet for packaging, wrapping the commodity except those plastic sheet's thickness, which will impair the functionality of the product are brought under the ambit of these rules. A large number of commodities are being packed/wrapped in to plastic sheets and thereafter such sheets are left or littered. Provisions have been introduced to ensure their collection and channelization to authorised recycling facilities.
- 5.** Extended Producer Responsibility: Earlier, EPR was left to the discretion of the local bodies. First time, the producers (i.e persons engaged in manufacture, or import of carry bags, multi-layered packaging and sheets or like and the persons using these for packaging or wrapping their products) and brand owners have been made responsible for collecting waste generated from their products. They have to approach local bodies for formulation of plan/system for the plastic waste management within the prescribed timeframe.
- 6.** State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) will not grant/renew registration of plastic bags, or multi-layered packaging unless the producer proposes the action plan endorsed by the concerned State Development Department.

7. Producers to keep a record of their vendors to whom they have supplied raw materials for manufacturing carry bags, plastic sheets, and multi-layered packaging. This is to curb manufacturing of these products in unorganised sector.
8. The entry Pages of plastic bags/plastic sheets/multi-layered packaging in to commodity supply chain are primarily the retailers and street vendors. They have been assigned the responsibility of not to provide the commodities in plastic bags/plastic sheets/multi-layered packaging which do not conform to these rules. Otherwise, they will have to pay the fine.
9. Plastic carry bag will be available only with shopkeepers/street vendors pre- registered with local bodies on payment of certain registration fee. The amount collected as registration fee by local bodies is to be used for waste management.
10. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been mandated to formulate the guidelines for thermoset plastic (plastic difficult to recycle). In the earlier Rules, there was no specific provision for such type of plastic.
11. Manufacturing and use of non-recyclable multi-layered plastic to be phased in two years.

#### **Salient features of Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018**

1. Rules lay down that the phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP) is now applicable to MLP, which are "non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternate use."
2. Prescribe a central registration system for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner.
3. The Rules also lay down that any mechanism for the registration should be automated and should take into account ease of doing business for producers, recyclers and manufacturers. The centralised registration system will be evolved by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner.
4. While a national registry has been prescribed for producers with presence in more than two states, a state-level registration has been prescribed for smaller producers/brand owners operating within one or two states.
5. In addition, Rule 15 of the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018 on "explicit pricing of carry bags" has been omitted.