

What is a PRO?

PRO (Producer Responsibility Organisation) is an agency or organisation which assists PIBO's to fulfil their EPR requirements under PWM Rules 2016.

- Identify types of Plastic packaging in use by PIBO.
- Provide an extended producer's responsibility plan as legally required.
- Register PIBO's EPR plan with CPCB/SPCB as appropriate
- Achieve collection targets, as per EPR plan
- Establishment of collection mechanism such as door to door collection.
- Implementation of buy back/take back if appropriate
- Establishment. of collection centers/Pages this may include setting up of collection go downs or operating through warehouses as per the guidelines issued by Central Pollution Control Board ('CPCB') if any.
- Logistics arrangements for transfer of collected plastic waste to recyclers
- Ensuring traceability of the waste collected, channelization & disposal of recyclable waste & end of life plastic waste.
- Ensuring Environmentally sound recycling.
- Conducting awareness programs among consumer's/bulk consumers/producers for collection and channelization of waste as required
- Help or file of quarterly/annual returns as per the rules with CPCB/SPCB.
- CPCB initially started a process of registering agencies desirous of or engaged in EPR for PIBO's., and laid down criteria for evaluating PRO's.
- CPCB initiated a scheme for Recognition of PRO's "to facilitate the producers meet their EPR responsibility as per PWM Rules 2018" and framed guidelines for the same.
- However on 24-05-2019 the PRO registration scheme was withdrawn on the grounds that "now that sufficient time(8 months) has lapsed since the guidelines have been in the public domain and adequate awareness on the fundamental principles of EPR including collection, and processing/disposal of waste has been created amongst the various stakeholders, it has been decided to discontinue the scheme for recognition of PRO's with CPCB.

In our humble opinion that this was a retrograde step.