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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

# E-waste EPR in India: producers, Schedule I, targets and certificates

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KEY FACTS

LAW

Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

PLASTIC EPR

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022

E-WASTE EPR

E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022

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## Who must register for e-waste EPR in India?

Every manufacturer, producer, refurbisher and recycler of equipment listed in Schedule I must register on CPCB's e-waste EPR portal, under rule 4 of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022. An entity in two roles registers in each. None may do business unregistered, and registered entities may not deal with unregistered ones.

The rules replaced the 2016 e-waste rules and took effect on April 1, 2023 (G.S.R. 801(E), rule 1(2)). They cover the equipment and its components, consumables, parts and spares (rule 2), and our tracker has the rules as issued. See our guide to MoEFCC rules for companies and EPR registration in India.

The rules leave out waste batteries, packaging plastics, micro enterprises and radioactive waste (rule 2). Batteries have their own rules: see battery EPR in India.

## Which products does Schedule I cover?

Schedule I of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 lists 106 kinds of electrical and electronic equipment in seven categories. They run from IT and telecom equipment and consumer electronics to appliances, electrical tools, toys, medical devices and laboratory instruments. Each kind has a code, such as ITEW15 for cellular telephones and CEEW14 for solar panels.

The seven categories of Schedule I

| Category | Codes | Kinds listed |
|---|---|---|
| IT and telecommunication equipment | ITEW1 to ITEW27 | 27 kinds, such as laptops and routers |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Consumer electrical and electronics and photovoltaic panels | CEEW1 to CEEW19 | 19 kinds, such as televisions and solar panels |
| Large and small electrical and electronic equipment | LSEEW1 to LSEEW34 | 34 kinds, such as freezers and kettles |
| Electrical and electronic tools | EETW1 to EETW8 | 8 kinds, such as drills and saws |
| Toys, leisure and sports equipment | TLSEW1 to TLSEW6 | 6 kinds, such as video game consoles |
| Medical devices (not implanted or infected products) | MDW1 to MDW10 | 10 kinds, such as dialysis and MRI equipment |
| Laboratory instruments | LIW1 to LIW2 | 2 kinds, such as gas analyzers |

Discarded solar photovoltaic modules, panels and cells count as e-waste (rule 3(1)(l)). Their makers and producers register and keep a separate inventory on the portal (rule 12(2)).

## What are the e-waste EPR targets?

E-waste EPR targets are a share, by weight, of what a producer placed on the market one average product life earlier. Schedule III sets 60% for 2023-24 and 2024-25, 70% for 2025-26 and 2026-27, and 80% from 2027-28. CPCB sets each product's average life, and the targets may be raised after 2028-29.

E-waste recycling targets in Schedule III

| Year | Target, share of what was placed on the market one average life earlier |
|---|---|
| 2023-24 and 2024-25 | 60% by weight |
| 2025-26 and 2026-27 | 70% by weight |
| 2027-28 onwards | 80% by weight |

A producer whose years of sales are fewer than its products' average life follows Schedule IV instead: 20% of the sales of two years back from 2025-26 (Schedule IV). It moves to Schedule III once its years of sales equal that life (Schedule IV, note 1).

A producer may buy certificates up to this year's liability, plus earlier unmet liability, plus 5% of this year's (rule 15(1)). An obligation ends only with a recycler's EPR certificate, never a refurbishing one (rule 14(2)(iv)).

## How do e-waste EPR certificates work, and what limits their price?

Producers meet e-waste EPR only by buying certificates from registered recyclers on CPCB's portal. A certificate must trade between a highest price of 100% and a lowest of 30% of the environmental compensation for a missed EPR obligation under rule 22. G.S.R. 164(E) of March 8, 2024 set this band in rule 15(9) and (10).

CPCB generates each certificate for a registered recycler. It's valid for two years from the end of the financial year it was made in, then lapses (rule 14(1)(iii)).

G.S.R. 164(E) set the band and lets the central government set up platforms for exchanging certificates (rule 15(7) and (8)). See our tracker entry on it.

## What hazardous substance limits apply to electronics in India?

New Schedule I equipment, with its components, consumables, parts and spares, may not contain more than 0.1% by weight of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, PBB or PBDE in homogeneous materials, or 0.01% of cadmium. Rule 16(1) of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 sets these limits, the rules' reduction of hazardous substances (RoHS) provisions.

Substance limits in rule 16(1)

| Substance | Limit by weight in homogeneous materials |
|---|---|
| Lead | 0.1% |
| Mercury | 0.1% |
| Hexavalent chromium | 0.1% |
| Polybrominated biphenyls (PBB) | 0.1% |
| Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) | 0.1% |
| Cadmium | 0.01% |

Schedule II exempts some uses, with limits of their own (rule 16(3) and (4)). G.S.R. 61(E) of January 30, 2023 added cadmium and lead in solar panels and cells. G.S.R. 534(E) of July 24,

2023 added Schedule II A's 24 exemptions for medical devices and monitoring and control instruments.

Schedule II C names 85 of the 106 kinds. Those placed on the market by April 1, 2025 are exempt, and so are their spares until April 1, 2028 where compliant ones aren't available (rule 16(2A) and (2B)). Producers declare compliance themselves, and CPCB samples products on the market (rule 16(8) and (11)).

Medical devices are Schedule I's sixth category, so their producers carry e-waste EPR and these limits. See our CDSCO tracker for device rules, our MeitY guide and BIS guide for Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification, and the tracker on the solar exemption and the 2023 schedules.

## What must makers of air conditioners and refrigerators do with refrigerant?

Manufacturers of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment must manage refrigerant generated during manufacture through approved destruction technologies, under CPCB's guidelines. Refurbishers and recyclers carry the same duty for refrigerant from end-of-life equipment. G.S.R. 534(E) of July 24, 2023 added these duties as rules 5(4), 7(5) and 9(11).

The rules call for "secure, accountable and sustainable management of refrigerant" (G.S.R. 534(E), paragraphs 2 to 4).

## What does a bulk consumer have to do under the e-waste rules?

A bulk consumer is any entity that has used at least 1,000 units of Schedule I equipment at any point in a financial year, and the definition includes e-retailers. Under rule 8 of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, a bulk consumer must hand its e-waste only to a registered producer, refurbisher or recycler.

Handing e-waste to an unregistered collector breaks rule 8 (G.S.R. 801(E)), and rule 23 makes any breach liable to a penalty under section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act.

## What do importers of used electronics and refurbishers owe?

An importer of used electrical and electronic equipment carries a 100% EPR obligation for it once it reaches end of life, unless it's re-exported (Schedule III, note 2). Refurbishing certificates defer a producer's obligation, and 75% of the deferred quantity comes back when the refurbished product's extended life ends (rule 14(2)(iii)).

In the rules' example (rule 14(2)), a producer owing 100 tonnes in 2023-24 buys 60 tonnes of recycling and 40 of refurbishing certificates for an item that lives five years longer. The 60 count in 2023-24, and 30 tonnes join its 2028-29 obligation.

Whether used equipment may enter India at all is for the hazardous waste rules: see importing hazardous waste, scrap and used equipment.

## Does an importer of electronics need to register as a producer?

An importer of Schedule I equipment needn't register as a producer if it imports only for a registered producer, for its own use, or for captive use in making goods for registered producers. CPCB's clarification of December 28, 2023 has such an importer give Customs papers showing whom it imports for, and email a copy to CPCB.

A consumer or bulk consumer importing for its own use gives Customs a self-declaration that the goods aren't for sale (the clarification, paragraph 3). For foreign brands and their Indian importers, see EPR for importers and foreign companies.

## When are e-waste returns due, and what happens if you break the rules?

Manufacturers, producers, refurbishers and recyclers file quarterly and annual returns on CPCB's portal by the end of the month after the quarter or year. For 2025-26, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) moved the deadline from April 30 to September 30, 2026. Breaking the rules attracts a penalty under section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act.

Rules 5, 6, 7 and 9 set the returns (G.S.R. 801(E)). MoEFCC's office memorandum of August 27, 2026, published with CPCB's notice of that day, used rule 9A, which lets the government allow up to nine more months.

Rule 23, as substituted by G.S.R. 699(E) of November 12, 2024, sends any breach to section 15 of the Act. CPCB may also levy environmental compensation (rule 22). See environmental compensation and penalties and our tracker entry on rule 23.

## How IndusDesk helps with e-waste EPR

We read which of your products fall in Schedule I and under which codes, and prepare your registration application, returns and replies to CPCB notices for you to file. We track your targets and the certificates you need each quarter. We don't buy, sell or broker certificates.

Regulatory & trade advisory →

Rule exposure audit →

Talk to our desk about e-waste EPR Message us on WhatsApp

## Latest notices and insights

- MoEFCC adds EPR certificate exchange platforms, price limits and return relaxations to the e-waste rules (Notice, March 8, 2024)

## Frequently asked questions

### Does e-waste EPR apply to equipment that isn't in Schedule I?

Importing equipment not listed in Schedule I needs no producer registration (CPCB clarification of December 28, 2023, paragraph 1). Registered recyclers may still recycle such waste if it holds no radioactive material (rule 9(7)).

### Can a producer buy all its e-waste certificates at the end of the year?

No. Producers buy certificates in proportion each quarter (rule 15(2)), and each purchase is set against the oldest liability first (rule 15(3)).

### Do solar panel makers have e-waste recycling targets?

No. The targets don't apply to waste from solar modules, panels or cells (Schedule III, note 3). Their makers still store that waste and file annual returns up to 2034-35 under CPCB's guidelines (rule 12(2)).

### Does a bulk consumer register on the e-waste EPR portal?

No. Rule 4 registers only manufacturers, producers, refurbishers and recyclers, and CPCB's e-waste FAQ confirms that a bulk consumer doesn't register.

### Must imported electronics meet India's RoHS limits?

Yes. Rule 16(6) of the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 lets new equipment be imported or sold only if it meets the limits in rule 16(1), or Schedule II's limits for exempt uses.

## Sources

- G.S.R. 801(E), November 2, 2022: E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, rules 1 to 9, 12 to 16, 22 and 23 and Schedules I, III and IV (PDF, 1.5 MB)
- G.S.R. 61(E), January 30, 2023: E-Waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2023 (Schedule II, Sl. No. 36) (PDF, 1.5 MB)
- G.S.R. 534(E), July 24, 2023: E-Waste (Management) Second Amendment Rules, 2023 (refrigerant duties, rule 16(2) to (2B), Schedules II A, II B and II C) (PDF, 775 KB)
- G.S.R. 164(E), March 8, 2024: E-Waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2024 (rule 9A, rule 15(7) to (10)) (PDF, 734 KB)
- G.S.R. 699(E), November 12, 2024: E-Waste (Management) Second Amendment Rules, 2024 (rule 23) (PDF, 2.1 MB)
- CPCB, File No. CP-22/29/2023-WM-III-HO-CPCB-HO, December 28, 2023: clarification on registration on the E-Waste EPR Portal
- CPCB, File No. CP/14/2024-WM-III-HO-CPCB-HO, August 27, 2026, with MoEFCC's office memorandum F. No. 12/136/2021-HSM of the same day: e-waste returns for 2025-26 extended to September 30, 2026 under rule 9A
- CPCB, Frequently Asked Questions under E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 (bulk consumer registration)

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