May 11, 2026

MOEFCC

MoEFCC drops 5-year age limit on used high-end medical equipment

MoEFCC's decision on the 155th Expert Committee meeting drops the 5-year age limit on used HEHV medical equipment and keeps a 7-year minimum residual life.

THE MINISTRY OF Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) published its decision on applications to import and export hazardous and other wastes under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, "as approved by the Competent Authority on the basis of 155th Meeting of Expert Committee (EC) held on 23rd April, 2026". The committee met online, chaired by Sudhir Srivastava. The 45-page document prints no date and carries no signature; its PDF was created and uploaded to moef.gov.in on May 11, 2026. Most of it records the committee's recommendation on each application. Its opening discussion sets how the committee now judges used or refurbished High-End High-Value (HEHV) medical equipment.

KEY FACTS

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Two rules had applied. MoEFCC's Office Memorandum (O.M.) of October 15, 2024, issued on the basis of an O.M. of August 20, 2024 from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, allows the import for reuse of "High End High Value Used/refurbished Medical Devices having residual life of minimum 07 years, duly certified by a Chartered Engineer or a Certificate from any accredited agency of exporting country indicating the functionality, manufacturing date, residual life and serial number". At its December 2025 meeting, the 152nd, held on December 22 and 23, the committee narrowed this. It would consider only equipment less than 5 years old, which for FY 2025 meant a manufacturing year of 2020 or later, with a minimum residual life of 7 years. It referred the details of older equipment to CDSCO.

CDSCO replied by email on April 16, 2026 that its mandate is the quality, safety and performance of medical devices under the Medical Device Rules, 2017, and that it "has no comments to offer on the recommendation of Experts Committee of MoEFCC". Intuitive Surgical India Pvt Ltd asked the committee to consider equipment older than 5 years, as under its earlier practice. With DGHS present, the committee reviewed its December decision, and R. P. Joshi, Additional Director General Health Services, was of the view that it may continue with the O.M. of October 15, 2024. The committee was of the view that "the existing residual life-based approach, supported by prescribed safeguards, may be continued at present", to be revisited on post-installation performance assessment and further policy guidance from DGHS. Cases earlier referred to CDSCO are to be reconsidered on that basis.

The committee's reasons: a well-established global market for used and refurbished equipment exists, including OEM-certified refurbishment; the current system of documentation and certification gives "a reasonable level of assurance regarding functionality and safety"; a strict age limit may limit availability and raise cost; and equipment such as CT scanners, which use X-rays, also needs a licence from AERB, which checks quality after installation and periodically. It said such equipment usually has a life of up to 15 years. It checks a Chartered Engineer or equivalent exporting-country certificate, service history, quality assurance reports, and de-

installation or decommissioning reports, and for third-party supplies it asks about skilled staff and spares. It did not consider equipment with a residual life of 5 years, which does not meet the O.M.'s criteria: one application for 20 machines made in 2021 to 2023, and one of two MRI machines in another, where it recommended only the machine with 20 years left. The decision does not reproduce DGHS's list of HEHV equipment.

Later decisions add to this. The decision on the 156th meeting, held on May 29, 2026 and uploaded on June 12, adds to each HEHV recommendation that "applicants seeking fresh permission for import of used/refurbished HEHV medical equipment shall submit Quality Assurance (QA) Reports for all such equipment imported by them prior to 31st May, 2024". The same decision takes up, "in view of the recommendation of EC given in its 155th meeting", the applications for equipment more than 5 years old that the 152nd, 153rd and 154th meetings had referred to CDSCO. At the 159th meeting, held on September 28, 2026 and uploaded on October 14, the committee recalled that CDSCO had told its 152nd meeting that guidelines on pre-owned, used and refurbished HEHV medical equipment were under finalization. It noted that CDSCO had not yet finalized them and was of the view that CDSCO may be requested to expedite them.

Issued by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Document	Decision on applications to import and export hazardous and other wastes, approved by the Competent Authority on the basis of the 155th meeting of the Expert Committee
Dated	No date printed; the PDF was created and uploaded on May 11, 2026
Meeting	April 23, 2026, online, chaired by Sudhir Srivastava
Rules	Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016
Applies to	Applications to import used or refurbished High-End High-Value (HEHV) medical equipment
Residual life	Minimum 7 years, certified by a Chartered Engineer or an accredited agency of the exporting country (MoEFCC O.M. of October 15, 2024)
Rule dropped	152nd meeting, December 22 and 23, 2025: only equipment less than 5 years old (for FY 2025, manufacturing year 2020 and onwards)
Documents checked	Chartered Engineer or equivalent exporting-country certificate, service history, quality assurance reports, de-installation or decommissioning reports
CDSCO	Email of April 16, 2026: no comments to offer on the Expert Committee's recommendation
Cases referred to CDSCO	To be reconsidered on the residual life basis

Review	To be revisited on post-installation performance assessment and further policy guidance from DGHS
Related	156th meeting, May 29, 2026 (uploaded June 12, 2026): applicants seeking fresh permission must submit QA reports for all such equipment imported before May 31, 2024; it also takes up the applications for equipment more than 5 years old referred to CDSCO by the 152nd, 153rd and 154th meetings
Related	159th meeting, September 28, 2026 (uploaded October 14, 2026): CDSCO's HEHV guidelines not yet finalized; CDSCO may be requested to expedite them
Pages	45

Which used HEHV medical equipment the committee considers

Meeting	Age of equipment	Residual life	Older equipment and documents
152nd, December 22 and 23, 2025	Less than 5 years old: for FY 2025, manufacturing year 2020 and onwards	Minimum 7 years	Details of each piece more than 5 years old referred to the CDSCO representative for views
155th, April 23, 2026	No age criterion: "the existing residual life-based approach" continues	Minimum 7 years (O.M. of October 15, 2024)	Chartered Engineer or equivalent certificate, service history, quality assurance reports, de-installation or decommissioning reports; cases earlier referred to CDSCO reconsidered

The decision (Expert Committee for import and export of hazardous and other wastes) (PDF, 743 KB)

Source: MoEFCC's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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