MOEFCC

White category list grows to 87, adding non-leather footwear

MoEFCC's G.S.R. 599(E) and 598(E) of July 8, 2026 replace the white category list under the Water and Air Acts: 87 sectors, with non-leather footwear added.

THE MINISTRY OF Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued two notifications dated July 8, 2026, in consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board. G.S.R. 599(E), under the proviso to section 25(1) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, amends G.S.R. 703(E) of November 12, 2024. G.S.R. 598(E), under the proviso to section 21(1) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, amends G.S.R. 702(E) of the same date. Both appeared in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), of July 8, 2026. Each one substitutes the Schedule, the "List of White Category Sectors", and changes nothing else. Both are signed by Neelesh Kumar Sah, Joint Secretary, under F. No. Q-15012/2/2022-CPW/e-240741.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

MoEFCC

PUBLISHED

July 8, 2026

ISSUED BY

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

DOCUMENT

G.S.R. 599(E) (Water Act) and G.S.R. 598(E) (Air Act)



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The 2024 notifications, as amended in July 2025 by G.S.R. 511(E) and G.S.R. 512(E), exempt the sectors in the Schedule from sections 25(1) and 21(1), the sub-sections that require the State Board's previous consent. The exemption covers "all industrial sectors or projects or processes or activities having pollution index score upto 25 as listed in the Schedule". It is "subject to condition that such industrial sectors or projects or processes or activities shall inform in writing to the State Pollution Control Boards or the Pollution Control Committees". The July 2026 notifications leave that paragraph as it is. Many entries carry limits of their own, such as a dry process, no boiler, no effluent or emission, or a capacity cap.

The new list has 87 entries; the October 17, 2025 list (G.S.R. 762(E) and 761(E)) had 86. The one new entry is "Non-leather footwear manufacturing (dry process and without boiler)". Most other changes fix spelling or spell out short forms: "Glass nut decorticating" becomes "Ground nut decorticating" and "DPC" becomes "Double Paper Covering". Entries 60 and 66 now read "Tonnes Per" for "TPD", without "Day". Entry 27, which read "Manufacturing of scientific and mathematical", now ends "instruments (assembling only)". Ten entries, the same ten as in October 2025, carry an asterisk: "Sub-sector of existing green category sector". They include bakery, confectionery and sweets units of more than 0.5 but less than 1 tonne a day, and small scale restaurants.

Manufacturing entries include "Electrical and electronic item assembling (completely dry process)", "Assembly of air coolers or air conditioners, repairing and servicing" and "Manufacturing of solar module or non-conventional energy apparatus". Others are garment and apparel making "without boiler", "Surgical and medical products assembled only (without effluent-generating process)", and "Metal fabrication works and hand tool manufacturing through machines (without heat or surface treatment or spray painting)". The Air Act notification carries the same 87 entries and the same ten asterisks. The only difference in wording is entry 60, which reads "blocks or tiles" where the Water Act list reads "blocks/tiles".

Neither notification states a date from which the new list applies. They don't explain the changes, define the pollution index score, or say what the written intimation to the State Board must

contain. They don't touch the separate exemption, in paragraph (b) of the 2024 notifications, for plants that hold prior environmental clearance under S.O. 1533(E) of September 14, 2006, in respect of previous consent to establish. No later notification changing the list appears in the Gazette up to October 28, 2026.

Issued by	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Document	G.S.R. 599(E) (Water Act) and G.S.R. 598(E) (Air Act)
Dated	July 8, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 541 (G.S.R. 599(E)) and No. 540 (G.S.R. 598(E)), July 8, 2026
Amends	G.S.R. 703(E) and G.S.R. 702(E) of November 12, 2024: the Schedule substituted
Made under	Proviso to section 25(1), Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; proviso to section 21(1), Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
Applies to	Industrial sectors, projects, processes or activities listed in the Schedule, with a pollution index score up to 25
Takes effect	No date stated
Condition (paragraph (a), unchanged)	Inform the State Pollution Control Boards or the Pollution Control Committees in writing
White category sectors	87 (86 in the list of October 17, 2025)
New entry	"Non-leather footwear manufacturing (dry process and without boiler)"
Sub-sectors of green category sectors	10, marked with an asterisk: entries 57, 60, 62, 63, 64, 66, 79, 83, 84 and 85
Air Act list	The same 87 entries; entry 60 reads "blocks or tiles" for the Water Act's "blocks/tiles"
File number	F. No. Q-15012/2/2022-CPW/e-240741
Signed by	Neelesh Kumar Sah, Joint Secretary

List of White Category Sectors, the Schedule substituted by G.S.R. 599(E)

Sl. No.	Industrial plant or sector	Note
1	Assembly of Bicycles, Baby carriages and other small non motorized vehicles	

2	Baling (hydraulic press) of waste papers
3	Bio fertilizers and bio-pesticides without using inorganic chemicals
4	Block making of printing without foundry (excluding wooden block making)
5	Flavoured Betel nuts production or grinding (completely dry mechanical operations)
6	Manufacturing of shoe brush and wire brush
7	Coir fibre or pith processing and/or manufacturing of coir products from coir (only dry process)
8	Assembly of air coolers or air conditioners, repairing and servicing
9	Cardboard or corrugated box and paper products (excluding paper or pulp manufacturing and without using boilers)
10	Chalk making from plaster of paris [only casting without boilers etc. (sun drying or electrical oven drying)]
11	Standalone manufacturing of concrete admixtures up to 1000 Metric Ton per month capacity by physical mixing (without boiler and reactor and no generation of wastewater)
12	Used cooking oil collection centres
13	Soap manufacturing (handmade-without steam boiling or boiler)
14	Diesel pump repairing and servicing (complete mechanical dry process)
15	Electric lamp (bulb) and Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) manufacturing by assembling only
16	Electrical and electronic item assembling (completely dry process)
17	Engineering and fabrication units dry process without any heat treatment or metal surface finishing operations or painting
18	Carpentry and wooden furniture manufacturing without spray painting [excluding saw mill with the help of electrical (motorized) machines such as electrical wood planer, steel saw cutting circular blade, etc.]
19	Steel furniture without spray painting
20	Compressed bio gas plants based on feedstock Municipal solid waste, agro-residue, energy crops grass or weeds, animal waste, press mud, etc. (as similar type feedstock apart from industrial or process waste), not discharging any waste water and producing by-products- (i) Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM) enriched manure and/or (ii) Briquette or pellet using electricity.

21	Hydrogen production through electrolysis(using renewable energy) on Build-Own-Operate (BOO) or Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) or Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) mode etc., located in the premises of end user industry and directly using de-mineralized water and other utilities (cooling tower, Effluent Treatment Plant, etc.) sourced from end user industry
22	Compressed oxygen gas from crude liquid oxygen (without use of any solvents and by maintaining pressure and temperature only for separation of other gases)
23	Glass ampules and vials making from glass tubes
24	Ground nut decorticating
25	Medical oxygen
26	Handloom or carpet weaving (without dyeing and bleaching operation)
27	Manufacturing of scientific and mathematical instruments (assembling only)
28	Manufacturing of products from jute (without dyeing or without boiler)
29	Leather foot wear and leather products (excluding tanning and hide processing)
30	Leather cutting and stitching (more than 10 machines and using motors)
31	Organic manure (physical mixing)
32	Packing of powdered milk
33	Cold rolling mill (without heat treatment)
34	Wire drawing and wire netting (without pickling and without heat treatment)
35	Manufacturing of metal caps containers etc.
36	Organic and inorganic nutrients by physical mixing (without boiler and without any reactor)
37	Biscuits trays etc. from rolled Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) sheet (using automatic vacuum forming machines)
38	Fountain pen manufacturing by assembling only
39	Glass putty and sealant (by mixing with machine only)
40	Manufacturing of paper pins, u-clips, etc.
41	Solar power generation through solar photovoltaic cell and wind power
42	Repairing of electric motors and generators (dry mechanical process)
43	Manufacturing of plastic or cotton rope
44	Tyre retreaders

45	Collection centres (without depollution, dismantling and shredding)	
46	Surgical and medical products assembled only (without effluent-generating process)	
47	Manufacturing of solar module or non-conventional energy apparatus	
48	Digital thermometer manufacturing	
49	Blending and packing of tea	
50	Garment and apparel manufacturing industry including doubling or reeling or TFO (Two-for-one unit) dry process - without boiler	
51	Cotton and woollen hosiers making (dry process only without any dyeing or washing operation)	
52	Railway sidings only for defence purpose	
53	Household bio-digesters or gobar-gas (cow-dung) plants based on biodegradable wastes, etc.	
54	Mini hydel power plants (capacity -25 Mega Watt)	
55	Agro-produce processing units having capacity more than 0.5 Tonnes Per Day but less than 1 Tonnes Per Day, using only cleaner fuels-electricity or gaseous fuel (without effluent generation)	
56	Assembling units and mechanical workshops (without heat or surface treatment or spray painting)	
57	Bakery, confectionery and sweets production units having capacity more than 0.5 Tonnes Per Day but less than 1 Tonnes Per Day, using only cleaner fuels-electricity or gaseous fuel and with having permission to discharge in municipal sewerage system connected to terminal Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
58	Cleaning and other brushes manufacturing through dry mechanical process (without moulding and without effluent or emission generation)	
59	Cattle or fish or poultry feed pellet making (only pelletisation unit without boiler and effluent generation)	
60	Cement products (without using asbestos) like pipe, pillar, jafri, well ring, blocks/tiles etc. (<1 Tonnes Per)	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
61	Decoration of ceramic cups and plates by electric furnace	
62	Detergent powder manufacturing (handmade -without steam boiling or boiler)	Sub-sector of existing green category sector

63	Digital printing on flex or vinyl, PVC etc. (less than 5 machines)	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
64	Distilled water using only electricity (< 1 KLD capacity)	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
65	Double Paper Covering (paper coating) of copper and aluminium wire (only dry process)	
66	Food and food processing unit (having capacity more than 0.5 Tonnes Per but less than 1 Tonnes Per) using only cleaner fuels –electricity or gaseous fuel, with having permission to discharge in municipal sewerage system connected to terminal Sewage Treatment Plant	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
67	Fuel dispensing unit only without automobile servicing, repairing and painting	
68	Gold assaying and hallmarking centres	
69	Herbal powder products making without extraction (dry process - without emissions or effluent generation)	
70	Industrial items from engineering plastics by fabrication process only (without moulding)	
71	Manufacturing of all types of threads, cordage, twines etc. (without ginning)	
72	Manufacturing of cotton wicks, tapes, bandages, absorbent cotton etc.(dry process without boiler and effluent generation)	
73	Manufacturing of domestic hardware and utensils (without heat or surface treatment or effluent generation)	
74	Manufacturing of products by only cutting or stitching or gumming (without effluent or emissions generation)	
75	Manufacturing of products through physical mixing only like - floor polish, nail polish, hair oil, shampoo, tooth powder, tooth paste, perfume, hand sanitizer (micro and small scale operations)	
76	Manufacturing of sanitary napkins or diapers fixing and sealing (small and micro scale units without effluent or emission generation)	
77	Manufacturing of stationery items (by assembling or cutting or punching or stapling or binding etc.)	
78	Metal fabrication works and hand tool manufacturing through machines (without heat or surface treatment or spray painting)	

79	Oil mill ghani and extraction no hydrogenation refining with capacity not exceeding 500 kg/day	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
80	Packing of food items (without processing)	
81	Paints and varnishes mixing and blending (without ball mill and only dry process)	
82	Plastic wire, net, nivar and other products (dry process through looping, twisting, cutting etc.)	
83	Puffed rice or murhi or chura with capacity not exceeding 1 TPD per day	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
84	Rice mills huller machine with capacity not exceeding 1 TPD per day	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
85	Small scale restaurant or hotel without room or cloud kitchens or resorts (without stay or room facility)	Sub-sector of existing green category sector
86	Sports goods manufacturing units (without seasoning of woods)	
87	Non-leather footwear manufacturing (dry process and without boiler)	Not in the list of October 17, 2025

The notification (PDF, 1.2 MB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-11072026-274396.

Checked against the official copy on October 28, 2026.

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Read online: indusdesk.com/moefcc/insights/white-category-list-grows-to-87-adding-non-leather-footwear/