AMENDMENT

MoEFCC amends the plastic waste rules on recycled content, rigid packaging reuse and local enforcement

G.S.R. 237(E) amends the plastic waste rules: recycled content and reuse targets, IS 14534: 2023 marking and local enforcement, in force on publication.

G.S.R. 237(E), A NOTIFICATION OF the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated March 31, 2026, makes the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026, amending the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. They come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. The notification records that the draft was published vide G.S.R. 365(E) dated June 3, 2025, that copies of the Gazette were made available to the public on June 3, 2025, and that objections and suggestions received were duly considered.

THE CHANGE

Amends rules 3, 11, 12, 16 and 17 and paragraphs 7, 12 and 13 of Schedule II of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

KEY FACTS

TYPE
Amendment

G.S.R. NUMBER
G.S.R. 237(E)

DATED
March 31, 2026

APPLIES FROM
On the date of their publication in the Official Gazette (rule 1(2)); no calendar date is printed

REFERENCES

G.S.R. 237(E)

CG-DL-E-31032026-271465

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G.S.R. 237(E) · March 31, 2026

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In rule 3, the amendment substitutes the definitions of "end of life disposal" (energy recovery including co-processing in industries such as cement and steel, waste-to-energy, waste-to-oil conversion and use in road construction, but not conversion into feedstock chemicals or new plastic, which is recycling) and "Plastic Waste Processors", and adds definitions of "registered environment auditor", "reuse" and "seller". Rule 11(2) now requires each recycled plastic packaging or commodity to conform to IS 14534: 2023 and bear the label and marking showing use of recycled plastic content.

New sub-rules (3A) to (3C) of rule 12 make the local body, the Gram Panchayat and the Panchayat at District Level the authorities for enforcing the provisions on waste management by the waste generator, restriction or prohibition on use of plastic carry bags, plastic sheets and plastic packaging, and items prohibited under rule 4; where an urban local body and a local authority overlap, the urban local body enforces. Rule 16(1) is substituted with a State Level Monitoring Committee, its members listed in sixteen entries, chaired by the Chief Secretary or the Head of the Union territory Administration. Registered Environment Auditors are added beside designated agencies in rule 17(5) and in paragraphs 12.4 and 13.1 of Schedule II.

In paragraph 7 of Schedule II, the recycled plastic tables for producers, importers and brand owners are substituted (Category I 30, 40, 50 and 60 percent; Category II 10, 10, 20 and 20 percent; Category III 5, 5, 10 and 10 percent, for 2025-26 to 2028-29 and onwards), with an exemption where a law, regulation, rule or mandatory Indian standard does not permit recycled plastic, claimed in the annual returns. The reuse targets for Category I rigid packaging are substituted (10 to 25 percent, 70 to 85 percent and 10 to 15 percent across its three size and use classes, from 2025-26 to 2028-29 and onwards), and brand owners report total sales, virgin plastic and recycled plastic in rigid packaging in their annual return.

The 2025-26 recycled content target for food contact packaging and the 2025-26 rigid packaging reuse target may be carried forward for up to three consecutive years from 2026-27, with at least one third of the unfulfilled target fulfilled each year. The notification (F. No. 17/4/2025-HSM) appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 218, dated March 31, 2026.

G.S.R. number	G.S.R. 237(E)
Dated	March 31, 2026
Gazette ID	CG-DL-E-31032026-271465
Rule	Plastic
Type	Amendment
Amends	Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
Products	Plastic packaging
What it does	Amends rules 3, 11, 12, 16 and 17 and paragraphs 7, 12 and 13 of Schedule II of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
Applies from	On the date of their publication in the Official Gazette (rule 1(2)); no calendar date is printed
Completes the draft	G.S.R. 365(E) of June 3, 2025; objections and suggestions received were considered
Conditions	• The recycled content targets do not apply where use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging is not permitted under a law or regulation or rule notified by the Central Government or by statutory bodies such as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation or the Central Insecticide Board, or any mandatory Indian standard; the producer, importer or brand owner submits the applicable law, regulation, rule or standard in its annual returns on the portal. • Unfulfilled 2025-26 targets for recycled content in food contact plastic packaging, and the 2025-26 reuse target for Category I rigid packaging, may be carried forward for up to three consecutive years from 2026-27, with at least one third fulfilled each year. • Guidelines for audit and verification of recycled content are to be prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board within six months from the date of notification of the rules.
Applies to	Producers, importers and brand owners of plastic packaging; plastic waste processors; local bodies, Gram Panchayats and Panchayats at District Level as enforcement authorities; State Governments and Union territory Administrations.
Issued under	Sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (29 of 1986)

Signed by NEELESH KUMAR SAH, Jt. Secy.

The notification, entry by entry

Entry	Text
Rule 3, clause (ga), substituted	"end of life disposal" means "the utilisation of plastic waste for the purpose of energy recovery including co-processing in industries such as cement, steel, and any other similar industry, waste-to-energy processes, waste-to-oil conversion, and use in road construction in accordance with applicable guidelines"; it does not include processes converting plastic waste into feedstock chemicals or producing new plastic, which are recycling.
Rule 3, clauses (qa) and (qb)	(qa): "or generation of energy" inserted after "transformation into new products"; (qb) substituted: "Plastic Waste Processors" means entities involved in recycling of plastic waste or engaged in end of life disposal of plastic waste.
Rule 3, clause (w)	"or authority" inserted after "urban local body", and "or local authority or other authority" after "any other local body".
Rule 3, clauses (ua), (ub) and (uc), substituted for clause (ua)	"registered environment auditor" (as defined under the Environment Audit Rules, 2025), "reuse" (using an object or resource material again for the same or another purpose without changing its structure) and "seller" (a person who sells plastic raw material such as resins or pellets or intermediate material used for producing plastic packaging).
Rule 11, sub-rule (2), substituted	Each recycled plastic packaging or commodity conforms to IS 14534: 2023 (Plastics—Recovery and Recycling of Plastics Waste—Guidelines), bears the label and marking showing use of recycled plastic content, and complies with the marking and labeling requirements of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for food contact application.
Rule 12, new sub-rules (3A) to (3C)	The local body (the urban local body where it overlaps with a local authority), the Gram Panchayat and the Panchayat at District Level are the authorities for enforcing the provisions on waste management by the waste generator, restriction or prohibition on use of plastic carry bags, plastic sheets or like, covers made of plastic sheets and plastic packaging, and items prohibited under rule 4.
Rule 16, sub-rule (1), substituted, and sub-rule (2)	A State Level Monitoring Committee whose members are listed in sixteen entries, (a) to (p) (entry (h) covers the Municipal Commissioners of all cities with a population of one million or more), chaired by the Chief Secretary or Head of the Union territory Administration; in (2), "and other Government officials including district level officials" inserted after "may invite experts".
Rule 17, sub-rule (5)	"or Registered Environment Auditor" inserted after "designated agency".
Schedule II, paragraph 7, sub-paragraphs (7.2)(a) and (7.3)(a)	For the figures and brackets "4 (iii)", "4 (c)" is substituted.

Sub-paragraph (7.2) (d), substituted: producers	Mandatory use of recycled plastic (% of plastic packaging manufactured for the year), 2025-26 to 2028-29 and onwards: Category I 30, 40, 50, 60; Category II 10, 10, 20, 20; Category III 5, 5, 10, 10. Not applicable where recycled plastic is not permitted under a law or regulation or rule notified by the Central Government or statutory bodies such as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation or the Central Insecticide Board, or any mandatory Indian standard, claimed in the annual returns. The 2025-26 food contact target may be carried forward for up to three consecutive years from 2026-27, at least one third each year.
Sub-paragraph (7.3) (d), substituted: importers	The same table (% of imported plastic packaging for the year) and exemption. Recycled plastic in imported material is not counted; the importer fulfills its obligation by buying certificates of equivalent quantity from producers, importers and brand owners with excess recycled content. The same carry-forward.
Sub-paragraph 7.4(b), sub-clauses (I) to (III), substituted: brand owners, reuse of Category I rigid plastic packaging	Minimum obligation to reuse (% of Category I rigid plastic packaging in products sold annually), 2025-26 to 2028-29 and onwards: A, "equal or more than 0.9 litre or kg but less than 4.9 litres or kg", 10, 15, 20, 25; B, "equal or more than 4.9 litres or kg used for packaging of drinking water", 70, 75, 80, 85; C, the same for "products other than drinking water", 10, 10, 15, 15. Not applicable where reuse is not permitted by law or a mandatory Indian standard; the 2025-26 target may be carried forward for up to three consecutive years, at least one third each year; brand owners report total sales, virgin plastic and recycled plastic in rigid packaging in their annual return.
Sub-paragraph 7.4, sub-clause (e), substituted: brand owners, recycled plastic content	The same table (% of plastic packaging used in the year), exemption and carry-forward as for producers.
Notes to the substituted tables	Guidelines for audit and verification of recycled content to be prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board within six months from the date of notification of the rules; for multi-layered plastic packaging (Category III), the target is limited to the weight of the plastic layers.
Schedule II, paragraphs 12.4 and 13.1	"or Registered Environment Auditor" inserted after "through a designated agency".

The notification (PDF, 866 KB)

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