FINAL RULES

MoEFCC makes the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025

S.O. 3401(E) makes the Contaminated Sites Rules, 2025: how sites are identified, assessed and remediated, and how the cost is shared, in force on publication.

S.O. 3401(E), A NOTIFICATION OF the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated July 24, 2025, makes the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025, in force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. The notification records that draft rules, named the Remediation of Contaminated Sites, 2024, were published vide S.O. 3550(E) dated August 21, 2024, that copies were made available to the public on August 21, 2024, and that objections and suggestions received were duly considered.

THE CHANGE

New rules for identifying, assessing and remediating sites contaminated by hazardous substances, with response and screening levels for the 189 entries of Schedule I, a Central Remediation Committee, empaneled "reference organisations", funding shared between the Central and State Governments, and environmental compensation.

KEY FACTS

TYPE
Final rules

S.O. NUMBER
S.O. 3401(E)

DATED
July 24, 2025

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

REFERENCES

S.O. 3401(E)

CG-DL-E-25072025-264959

MoEFCC makes the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025

S.O. 3401(E) · July 24, 2025

S.O. 3401(E), a notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated July 24, 2025, makes the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025, in force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. The notification records that draft rules, named the Remediation of Contaminated Sites, 2024, were published vide S.O. 3550(E) dated August 21, 2024, that copies were made available to the public on August 21, 2024, and that objections and suggestions received were duly considered.

A local body or District Administration identifies suspected contaminated sites, on its own or on a complaint from the public, and reports them half-yearly on the online portal in Form 1. The State Board makes a preliminary site assessment within ninety days and lists a site as probable contaminated if a contaminant is above the screening level, then makes a detailed assessment within three months and lists it as contaminated if a contaminant is above the response level. The list is published on the portal, inviting comments and suggestions within sixty days of its publication, and the final list is then published on the portal, with a notice in two local newspapers.

Within ninety days of publication the State Board identifies the person responsible for the contamination; where the site has been transferred, the transferee is the responsible person. The responsible person prepares a remediation plan within six months through a "reference organisation" selected by the State Board, bears the expenses and reports progress half-yearly in Form 2. Where no responsible person is identified, the State Board prepares the plan within six months and starts remediation within ninety days of finalizing it. After remediation, a Central Remediation Committee reviews the reports and the State Board issues a Remediation Completion Order.

Funds for assessment, and for remediation where no responsible person is identified, are shared between the Central and State Governments: ninety and ten percent in the North Eastern and Himalayan States, sixty and forty percent in other States, and one hundred percent from the Central Government in Union territories. The responsible person repays public expenditure with interest, but not the cost of assessments where the site is not confirmed as contaminated. A site not yet identified or under investigation may be remediated voluntarily with the Committee's review.

Schedule I lists 189 entries, chemicals and also physical and biological parameters such as pH, conductivity, turbidity and coliforms, with, where set, response levels for soil and sediment and screening levels for soil and sediment by land use (agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial), ground water and surface water. Schedule II sets the criteria for empanelment of "reference organisations", and Forms 1 to 5 the reports and applications the rules require. The

notification (F. No. 12/4/2024 -HSM) appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 3325, dated July 24, 2025.

S.O. number	S.O. 3401(E)
Dated	July 24, 2025
Put online	July 25, 2025
Gazette ID	CG-DL-E-25072025-264959
Rule	Other waste rules
Type	Final rules
Products	Contaminated sites
What it does	New rules for identifying, assessing and remediating sites contaminated by hazardous substances, with response and screening levels for the 189 entries of Schedule I, a Central Remediation Committee, empaneled "reference organisations", funding shared between the Central and State Governments, and environmental compensation.
Applies from	On the date of their publication in the Official Gazette (rule 1(2)); no calendar date is printed
Completes the draft	S.O. 3550(E) of August 21, 2024; objections and suggestions received were considered
Conditions	• A site is listed as probable contaminated when a contaminant is above the screening level after preliminary assessment, and as contaminated when above the response level after detailed assessment (rule 4). • The responsible person prepares a remediation plan and remediates through a "reference organisation" selected by the State Board, at its own expense; liability is not excused because the contamination occurred before the rules commenced (rules 5 and 6). • Where no responsible person is identified, and for orphan sites, costs are shared between the Central and State Governments in the ratios of rule 8(2). • Environmental compensation may be imposed by the State Board, or by the Central Board if the State Board does not act within sixty days (rule 13).

Applies to	Local bodies and District Administrations, State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees, the Central Pollution Control Board, persons responsible for contaminating a site, and organizations seeking empanelment as "reference organisations".
Issued under	Sections 3, 6, 8 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 1: Short title and commencement	Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025; in force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
Rule 2: Application	Not a contaminated site affected by radioactive waste, mining operations, pollution of the sea by oil or oily substance, or solid waste from dump sites; but such a site is covered where a contaminant mixed with them exceeds the response level.
Rule 3: Definitions	Twenty definitions, a to t, including "contaminant" (a hazardous substance above the response levels in Schedule I), "response level", "screening level", "orphan site" and "responsible person".
Rule 4: Identification of contaminated sites	The local body or District Administration lists suspected contaminated sites on the portal and reports them half-yearly in Form 1. The State Board makes a preliminary assessment within ninety days and lists a site as probable contaminated above the screening level; a detailed assessment within three months, listing it as contaminated above the response level. The list is published on the portal, inviting comments and suggestions within sixty days of its publication; the final list is then published on the portal, with a notice in two local newspapers.
Rule 5: Remediation of the contaminated sites	The State Board selects a "reference organisation" within three months and identifies the responsible person within ninety days; a transferee of the site is the responsible person. The responsible person prepares a remediation plan within six months, bears the expenses and reports half-yearly in Form 2; the State Board approves the plan within three months. Where no responsible person is identified, the State Board prepares the plan within six months and starts remediation within ninety days of finalizing it.
Rule 6: Verification of remediation	The State Board reports completion to the Central Board, the Committee reviews it, and the State Board issues the Remediation Completion Order. The responsible person is liable for all damages, including where the contamination occurred before the rules commenced; accidents are reported in Form 3.
Rule 7: Reference organisation	Organizations meeting Schedule II apply to the Central Board in Form 4 for empanelment, decided within sixty days; the Central Board publishes and updates the list quarterly.

Rule 8: Financial mechanism for assessment and remediation of contaminated sites	Funds shared between the Central and State Governments: ninety and ten percent in the North Eastern and Himalayan States, sixty and forty percent in other States, one hundred percent Central in Union territories. The responsible person repays assessment costs within three months, and public expenditure with interest, except for assessments of a site not confirmed as contaminated; orphan sites follow the same ratio.
Rule 9: Centralised online portal	Developed by the Central Board for reporting suspected, probable and contaminated sites and monitoring their assessment and remediation.
Rule 10: Remediation Committee	A Central Remediation Committee chaired by the Chairman of the Central Board meets at least once in six months; each State or Union territory constitutes a State Level Committee within three months from the date of publication of the rules.
Rule 11: Functions of Central Board	Develops the portal and sends a consolidated review report in Form 5 to the Central Government before September 30 every year.
Rule 12: Voluntary remediation	A site not identified or under investigation may be remediated voluntarily, on an application reviewed by the Committee with the agreement of all owners and occupiers and proof of capacity to pay.
Rule 13: Environmental Compensation	The State Board may impose it on a responsible person who does not remediate; the Central Board may if the State Board does not act within sixty days. It is credited to the Environmental Relief Fund in a separate account and used for assessment and remediation.
Schedule I: Response and Screening Levels of Hazardous Substances	189 entries, chemicals and also physical and biological parameters such as pH, conductivity, turbidity and coliforms, giving, where set, response levels for soil and sediment and screening levels for soil and sediment by land use (agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial), ground water and surface water.
Schedule II: Criteria for Selection of Reference Organisations	For assessment and remediation plans: at least 5 years of experience, 3 projects and 10 qualified personnel, with a tie-up with a laboratory recognized under section 12 of the Act; for implementing remediation: at least 5 years, 3 projects and 15 personnel.
Forms 1 to 5	Half-yearly inventory of suspected contaminated sites; half-yearly progress report of remediation; accident report; application for empanelment of a "reference organisation"; the Central Board's annual consolidated review report.

The notification (PDF, 2.4 MB)

Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-25072025-264959, published July 24, 2025.

Checked against the official copy on October 27, 2026.

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

Read online: indusdesk.com/moefcc/tracker/makes-environment-protection-management-of-contaminated-sites-rules-264959/