DRAFT AMENDMENT

MoEFCC proposes to substitute the recycled plastic content and reuse obligations for plastic packaging

Draft G.S.R. 365(E) of June 3, 2025 would substitute the recycled plastic content and Category I reuse obligations in Schedule-II of the plastic waste rules.

G.S.R. 365(E), A DRAFT notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated June 3, 2025, proposes amendments to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (G.S.R. 320(E) of March 18, 2016), to be called the Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025. The draft says the amendments are proposed to remove certain difficulties, in order to further strengthen the effective implementation of the guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging. The draft rules would come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

THE CHANGE

The draft would substitute clause (d) of sub-paragraphs 7.2 (producers) and 7.3 (importers), and sub-clause (I) of clause (b) and sub-clause (e) of sub-paragraph 7.4 (brand owners), in paragraph 7 of Schedule-II of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

KEY FACTS

TYPE
Draft amendment

G.S.R. NUMBER
G.S.R. 365(E)

DATED
June 3, 2025

APPLIES FROM
Proposed: on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette (rule 1(2) of the draft)

REFERENCES

G.S.R. 365(E)

CG-DL-E-05062025-263615

MoEFCC proposes to substitute the recycled plastic content and reuse obligations for plastic packaging

G.S.R. 365(E) · June 3, 2025

G.S.R. 365(E), a draft notification of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated June 3, 2025, proposes amendments to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (G.S.R. 320(E) of March 18, 2016), to be called the Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025. The draft says the amendments are proposed to remove certain difficulties, in order to further strengthen the effective implementation of the guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility on plastic packaging. The draft rules would come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

The notice says the draft will be taken into consideration on or after the expiry of sixty days from the date on which copies of this notification as published in the Gazette of India are made available to the public. Objections and suggestions go in writing to the Secretary of the Ministry by post, or to sohsmd-mef@gov.in. Counted from the Gazette's issue date (June 4, 2025), the sixty days ended on August 3, 2025; counted from the day it was put online (June 5, 2025), on August 4, 2025. The final rule, G.S.R. 237(E), records that copies were made available to the public on June 3, 2025; counted from that day, the period ended on August 2, 2025. These closing dates are worked out, not printed.

In paragraph 7 of Schedule-II, the draft substitutes the obligation for use of recycled plastic content for producers (clause (d) of 7.2), importers (clause (d) of 7.3) and brand owners (sub-clause (e) of 7.4). Each carries the same table of mandatory use of recycled plastic for 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 onwards: Category I 30, 40, 50 and 60 percent; Category II 10, 10, 20 and 20 percent; Category III 5, 5, 10 and 10 percent. Where statutory or technical requirements make the obligation impossible to meet, an exemption "may be granted" by the Central Pollution Control Board case by case for producers and importers, and "will be granted" for brand owners.

For importers, recycled plastic used in imported material does not count; they fulfill the obligation by buying certificates of equivalent quantity from producers, importers and brand owners who used recycled content in excess of their obligation, through a mechanism the Central Pollution Control Board is to develop on the online portal. Producers, importers and brand owners may carry forward a 2025-26 shortfall in recycled plastic for packaging used in food contact applications over three years starting from 2026-27.

For brand owners using Category I (rigid) plastic packaging, the draft substitutes the minimum obligation to reuse for 2025-26 to 2028-29 and onwards: 10, 15, 20 and 25 percent for packaging "with volume or weight equal or more than 0.9 litre or kg but less than 4.9 litres or kg"; 70, 75, 80 and 85 percent for packaging "equal or more than 4.9 litres or kg used for packaging of drinking water"; and 10, 10, 15 and 15 percent for the same sizes used for other products. Reuse in food

contact applications is subject to regulation of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, and a 2025-26 shortfall may be carried forward over three years from 2026-27.

The draft (F. No. 17/4/2025-HSM) appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), No. 322, dated June 4, 2025. The final rules are G.S.R. 237(E) of March 31, 2026.

G.S.R. number	G.S.R. 365(E)
Dated	June 3, 2025
Issued	June 4, 2025
Put online	June 5, 2025
Gazette ID	CG-DL-E-05062025-263615
Rule	Plastic
Type	Draft amendment
Would amend	Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016
Products	Plastic packaging
What it does	The draft would substitute clause (d) of sub-paragraphs 7.2 (producers) and 7.3 (importers), and sub-clause (I) of clause (b) and sub-clause (e) of sub-paragraph 7.4 (brand owners), in paragraph 7 of Schedule-II of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
Applies from	Proposed: on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette (rule 1(2) of the draft)
Comments	Closing date August 2, 2025, worked out: 60 days from June 3, 2025, the day G.S.R. 237(E) says copies were made public
Made final by	G.S.R. 237(E) of March 31, 2026
Conditions	• Objections or suggestions in writing within sixty days from the date on which copies of this notification as published in the Gazette of India are made available to the public (the notice's words), by post to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003, or by email to sohsmd-mef@gov.in. • Closing date, worked out (not printed): August 3, 2025, counted from the issue date, June 4, 2025; August 4, 2025, counted from the publish date, June 5, 2025; August 2, 2025, counted from June 3, 2025, the day the final rule G.S.R. 237(E) says copies were made available to the public.

- The draft's Notes: "statutory requirement would mean the case where use of recycled content is not allowed by any other law in force"; "Technical requirement would mean the case where use of recycled content renders the packaged material unfit for intended use".

Applies to	Producers (sub-paragraph 7.2), importers (7.3) and brand owners (7.4) of plastic packaging under Schedule-II of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
Issued under	Sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986); published as required under sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
Signed by	NEELESH KUMAR SAH, Joint Secretary

The notification, entry by entry

Entry	Text
Schedule-II, paragraph 7, sub-paragraph 7.2, clause (d)(i): producers	Mandatory use of recycled plastic in plastic packaging (% of plastic manufactured for the year), for 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 and 2028-29 and onwards: Category I 30, 40, 50, 60; Category II 10, 10, 20, 20; Category III 5, 5, 10, 10. Where statutory or technical requirements make the obligation impossible to meet, the Central Pollution Control Board may grant an exemption case by case.
Sub-paragraph 7.2, clause (d)(ii): producers, food contact applications	The producer may be allowed to carry forward any shortfall in mandatory use of recycled plastic for 2025-26 for a period of three years starting from 2026-27, over and above the targets for those years.
Sub-paragraph 7.3, clause (d)(i): importers	The same table, as % of imported plastic for the year. 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 who used recycled content in excess of their obligation, through a mechanism the Central Pollution Control Board is to develop on the online portal. Exemption case by case as for producers.
Sub-paragraph 7.3, clause (d)(ii): importers, food contact applications	The importer may be allowed to carry forward any shortfall remaining for 2025-26, after undertaking best efforts, for three years starting from 2026-27.
Sub-paragraph 7.4, clause (b), sub-clause (I): brand owners, reuse of Category I rigid plastic packaging	Minimum obligation to reuse, as a percentage of Category I rigid plastic packaging in products sold annually, for 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28 and 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. Reuse in food contact applications is subject to regulation of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India; a 2025-26 shortfall may be carried forward for three years from 2026-27; brand owners report on the Central Pollution Control Board's portal.

Sub-paragraph 7.4, sub-clause (e)(i) and (ii): brand owners, recycled plastic content	The same recycled plastic table as for producers (% of plastic manufactured for the year), with exemption case by case by the Central Pollution Control Board on statutory or technical grounds.
Sub-paragraph 7.4, sub-clause (e)(iii): brand owners, food contact applications	The brand owner may be allowed to carry forward any shortfall for 2025-26 for three years starting from 2026-27.

The notification (PDF, 1.9 MB)

Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-05062025-263615, published June 4, 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/proposes-to-substitute-recycled-plastic-content-and-reuse-263615/