DRAFT RULES

MoEFCC publishes draft Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024, with reuse targets for bulk users and industries

S.O. 4341(E) proposes Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024, with registration, reuse targets and responsibility certificates for bulk water users and industries.

S.O. 4341(E), DATED October 7, 2024, publishes the draft Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024 of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, to address the management of the liquid waste as a whole and each of its aspects: minimization, collection, treatment, reuse or utilization of treated wastewater or sludge, and disposal of the rest. The rules would come into force from October 1, 2025.

THE CHANGE

Proposed: new rules for the management of liquid waste as a whole: wastewater, sludge and fecal sludge, with Extended User Responsibility and reuse targets for bulk users of water, reuse targets for listed industries and recovery targets for treatment facilities.

KEY FACTS

TYPE
Draft rules

S.O. NUMBER
S.O. 4341(E)

DATED
October 7, 2024

APPLIES FROM
Proposed: October 1, 2025 (rule 1(2) of the draft: "from 01 October, 2025")

REFERENCES

S.O. 4341(E)

CG-DL-E-08102024-257748

MoEFCC publishes draft Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024, with reuse targets for bulk users and industries

S.O. 4341(E) · October 7, 2024

S.O. 4341(E), dated October 7, 2024, publishes the draft Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024 of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, to address the management of the liquid waste as a whole and each of its aspects: minimization, collection, treatment, reuse or utilization of treated wastewater or sludge, and disposal of the rest. The rules would come into force from October 1, 2025.

Bulk users of water, buildings and residential societies having an average water use exceeding 5000 liters per day, would register on a centralized online portal and carry Extended User Responsibility (EUR) for the wastewater from the water they consume. They would reuse a minimum share of treated wastewater, as a percentage of water consumed: for new bulk users, residential societies 20% in 2027-28 rising to 50% from 2030-31, and institutional and commercial establishments 20% rising to 40%; for existing bulk users, 10% rising to 25% and 10% rising to 20%. Where they cannot treat on site they would buy EUR certificates from registered treatment facilities; the cost of an EUR certificate would be 50% of the environmental compensation in case of non-compliance.

Industries with water consumption of more than 5000 LPD or pollution load above 10 kg per day in terms of BOD would register and report monthly, and four industries listed in Schedule-II (thermal power plants, pulp and paper, textile, iron and steel) would meet a minimum use of the treated wastewater, assessed in respect of their total fresh water consumption, of 60 in 2027-28 rising to 90 from 2030-31 (the Table prints no unit). Wastewater treatment facilities would recover for reuse 55% of all wastewater in 2027-28, rising to 65% from 2029-30, and ETPs and CETPs 70% rising to 90%. Local bodies would manage wastewater and fecal sludge to the timelines in Schedule-I, from March 31, 2025 for million plus cities to March 31, 2030 for all rural areas.

The notice invites objections or suggestions within sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette are made available to the public.

The notification (F. No-12/122/2022-HSM) appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 3982, dated October 7, 2024; the e-Gazette put it online on October 8, 2024.

S.O. number	S.O. 4341(E)
Dated	October 7, 2024
Put online	October 8, 2024

Gazette ID	CG-DL-E-08102024-257748
Rule	Other waste rules
Type	Draft rules
What it does	Proposed: new rules for the management of liquid waste as a whole: wastewater, sludge and fecal sludge, with Extended User Responsibility and reuse targets for bulk users of water, reuse targets for listed industries and recovery targets for treatment facilities.
Applies from	Proposed: October 1, 2025 (rule 1(2) of the draft: “from 01 October, 2025”)
Comments	Closing date December 6 or 7, 2024, worked out: 60 days from the Gazette of October 7, 2024, put online October 8, 2024
Conditions	• Objections or suggestions within sixty days from the date on which copies of this notification as published in the gazette of India are made available to public (the notice's words), to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi- 110 003, or by email to sohsmd-mef@gov.in. • Closing date, worked out (not printed): December 6, 2024, counted from the issue date, October 7, 2024; December 7, 2024, counted from the publish date, October 8, 2024.
Applies to	Urban and rural local bodies, public authorities and entities generating or managing wastewater, sludge and fecal sludge; bulk users of water having an average water use exceeding 5000 liters per day; industries having water consumption of more than 5000 LPD or pollution load above 10 kg per day in terms of BOD; operators of wastewater, fecal sludge and effluent treatment facilities and desludging services.
Issued under	Sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986)
Signed by	NARESH PAL GANGWAR, Addl. Secy.

The notification, entry by entry

Entry	Text
Chapter I, rule 1: Short title and commencement	These rules may be called Liquid Waste Management Rules, 2024. They shall come into force from 01 October, 2025.

Chapter I, rule 2: Application	Every urban body as well as rural local body and all public authorities and entities responsible for the generation and management of wastewater, sludge from wastewater treatment facilities and fecal sludge, including industrial areas, SEZs, railways, airports, ports, defense establishments and places of pilgrims, and every domestic, institutional, commercial and any other non-residential liquid waste generator including bulk user of water.
Chapter I, rule 3: Definitions	(a) to (aa). A "bulk user of water" includes government, institutional and commercial buildings, hospitals, educational institutions, hostels, hotels, markets, places of worship and residential societies having an average water use exceeding 5000 litres per day.
Chapter I, rule 4: Liquid waste management	Environmentally sound management of wastewater; of sludge from wastewater treatment and fecal sludge; and reuse, utilization or disposal of treated wastewater or sludge.
Chapter II, rule 1: Duties of wastewater generator	Dispose wastewater, other than from industries, in drainage systems provided by the local body; not on open land or in a water body; pay the user fee.
Chapter II, rule 2: Duties of bulk user of water	Register through Form 1(A) on the centralized online portal; carry Extended User Responsibility (EUR) for wastewater generated based on water consumed; set up on site decentralized wastewater treatment and dual piping in new premises; meet the minimum reuse of treated wastewater in Table 1 (new bulk users) or Table 2 (existing bulk users); procure EUR certificates and Reuse Responsibility Certificates where needed; report by 7th of every month and file annual returns by 30th June. This applies to every bulk user of water other than industries having water consumption of more than 5000 litres per day or pollution load of more than 10 kg per day in terms of BOD.
Chapter II, rule 2, Table 1: new bulk users	Minimum reuse of the treated wastewater (percentage of water consumed) for 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30 and 2030-31 and onwards: Residential Societies 20, 30, 40, 50; Institutional/Commercial/Establishments viz government offices/ private offices 20, 20, 40, 40.
Chapter II, rule 2, Table 2: existing bulk users	Minimum reuse of the treated wastewater (percentage of water consumed) for 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30 and 2030-31 and onwards: Residential Societies 10, 15, 20, 25; Institutional/Commercial/Establishments viz government offices/ private offices 10, 10, 20, 20.
Chapter II, rule 3: Duties of operators of wastewater treatment facilities	Register as per Form 2(A); generate EUR certificates only for the bulk users associated with it; report by 7th of every month; file annual returns by 30th June; meet the minimum recovery target of wastewater in Table 3: 55% in 2027-28, 60% in 2028-29, 65% in 2029-30 and onwards.
Chapter II, rule 4: Duties of local body including public wastewater management authorities	Manage collection, treatment, reuse and disposal of wastewater; prepare an action plan as per Schedule-I; register and geo-tag treatment plants; monitor receiving water bodies monthly; file annual returns by 30th June; levy user fee and provide for fines.

Chapter II, rule 5: Extended User Responsibility (EUR) Certificate for treatment of wastewater	Extended User Responsibility certificates (litres) = Quantity of wastewater received for processing (litres). Certificates are valid for the same year; the cost of an EUR certificate shall be 50% of the environmental compensation in case of non-compliance of the obligation.
Chapter III, rule 1: Duties of user of Onsite Sanitation System	Desludge septic tanks as directed by the local body (septic tanks may be emptied typically every 3 to 5 years); use registered desludging services; not dispose fecal sludge on open land or in a water body; pay the fees prescribed by the local body.
Chapter III, rule 2: Duties of operator of desludging services	Register on the centralized online portal; mechanized desludging with PPE kits; report by 7th of every month; file annual returns by 30th June.
Chapter III, rule 3: Duties of operator of faecal sludge treatment facilities	Register; follow the Central Pollution Control Board's standards; geo-tag facilities; report by 7th of every month; file annual returns by 30th June; test organic manure or soil conditioner monthly.
Chapter III, rule 4: Duties of local body	Manage fecal sludge; prepare an action plan as per Schedule I; allow only registered desludging operators and treatment facilities; GPS tracking and flow monitoring meters on desludging vehicles; file annual returns by 30th June.
Chapter IV, rule 1: Duties of Industries	Industries having water consumption of more than 5000 LPD or pollution load above 10 kg per day in terms of BOD register, meet discharge standards, run ETPs or use CETPs, adopt Zero Liquid Discharge where applicable or mandated, report by 7th of every month and file annual returns by 30th June. Industries in Schedule-II meet the minimum use of treated wastewater in Table 4 for Industrial units: 60, 70, 80 and 90 for 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30 and 2030-31 and onwards.
Chapter IV, rule 2: Duties of operator of ETP/CETP	Monitor treated effluent through in-house or NABL-accredited laboratories; manage sludge under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016; meet the minimum recovery of wastewater in Table 5: 70% in 2027-28, 80% in 2028-29, 90% in 2029-30 and onwards; generate Reuse Responsibility Certificates.
Chapter IV, rule 3: Extended User Responsibility (EUR) Certificate for treatment of wastewater	ETPs/CETPs may generate EUR certificates for treated wastewater other than industrial wastewater, for the bulk users associated with them; valid for the same year.
Chapter V: General Obligations for sludge/ faecal sludge handling entities	Eighteen obligations, among them testing and categorizing sludge, treating and stabilizing it, using treated sludge as soil conditioner or organic manure where it meets the standards, disposal in landfills complying with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 where reuse is not feasible, and registration of other entities treating sludge.

Chapter VI, rule 1: Centralised Online Portal	Established by the Central Pollution Control Board within six months of commencement of these rules.
Chapter VI, rule 2: Imposition of Environmental Compensation	For activities without registration, false information, forged documents and unsound handling, levied by the State Pollution Control Board. Action under Sections 15, 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 15E and 15F of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 may also be taken, including where an obligated entity has not fulfilled its EUR obligation three years after the year of obligation.
Chapter VI, rules 3 and 4: Committees for Effective Implementation at Central level and at State level	Chaired by the Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board and of the State Pollution Control Board; the recovery target may be reviewed at least once every four years.
Chapter VI, rule 5: Annual Reports	Bulk users and facilities by the 30th June to the local body and the State Pollution Control Board; State Pollution Control Boards to the Central Pollution Control Board by the 31st July; the Central Pollution Control Board to the Central Government on or before the 31st August.
Chapter VII, rules 1 to 11: Role and Responsibilities	The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (a Central Monitoring Committee); the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (state policies and strategies by 31 March 2026); the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; the Department of Fertilizers; State and UT governments; ULBs and PRIs/GPs; the Department of Revenue; the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; the Central Pollution Control Board; the State Pollution Control Board.
Schedule-I: Timelines for compliance	Urban areas: million plus cities 31 March 2025; 5-10 lakh 31 March, 2026; 1-5 lakh 31 March 2027; all urban areas 31 March 2028. Rural areas: 20000 and above 31 March 2026; 10000-20000 31 March, 2027; 5000-10000 31 March 2028; 1000-5000 31 March 2029; all rural areas 31 March 2030.
Schedule-II: List of industries identified for reuse of wastewater	Thermal Power plants; Pulp and Paper; Textile Industry; Iron and Steel industry.
Forms 1(A) to 5	Registration of bulk users and its grant; Extended User Responsibility plan; registration of liquid waste treatment facilities and its grant; annual returns by bulk users; quarterly returns by liquid waste treatment facilities; form of appeal.

The notification (PDF, 2.4 MB)

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