FINAL RULES

# MoEFCC replaces the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 with the 2026 rules, in force from April 1, 2026

S.O. 388(E) makes the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, replacing the 2016 rules from April 1, 2026: four-stream segregation and bulk waste generator duties.

S.O. 388(E), A NOTIFICATION OF THE Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated January 27, 2026, makes the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, in force with effect from April 1, 2026. They are made in supersession of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (the English text prints "in suppression of"), except as respects things done or omitted to be done before the supersession. The notification records that the draft, the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2024, was published vide S.O. 5369(E) dated December 9, 2024, that copies were made available to the public on December 14, 2024, and that objections and suggestions received were duly considered.

## THE CHANGE

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, in force with effect from April 1, 2026, made in supersession of the 2016 rules except as respects things done or omitted to be done before the supersession.

## KEY FACTS

TYPE
Final rules

S.O. NUMBER
S.O. 388(E)

DATED
January 27, 2026

APPLIES FROM
April 1, 2026 (rule 1(2))

## REFERENCES

S.O. 388(E)

CG-DL-E-28012026-269620

# MoEFCC replaces the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 with the 2026 rules, in force from April 1, 2026

S.O. 388(E) · January 27, 2026

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The rules apply to every urban and rural local body and all entities within their jurisdictions, and to every domestic, institutional, commercial and other non-residential solid waste generator. Every waste generator segregates waste at source into four streams (wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and special care waste), pays the user fee set in the local body's bye-laws, and does not throw, burn or bury waste in public places; an event of more than one hundred persons at an unlicensed place needs three working days' notice to the local body.

A bulk waste generator is one of the listed institutional users, commercial users or residential societies that meets at least one of the criteria "(i) buildings with floor area of 20,000 sq.m. or above; or (ii) water consumption of 40000 litres per day; or (iii) solid waste generation of 100 kg per day". It registers with the local body on the online portal, processes its own wet waste or, where the local body exempts an existing generator, procures Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility certificates for it, procures such certificates for its dry, sanitary and special care waste, and files annual returns by June 30 every year. Only the local body generates these certificates, one kilogram for each kilogram of waste collected and sent to registered processors or recyclers, valid for three years.

Industrial units using solid fuel within the specified distance of a solid waste based refuse-derived fuel plant (100 km for waste to energy plants or industries with boilers, 400 km for cement kilns) replace at least six percent of their fuel intake from the date the rules come into effect, ten percent after three years and fifteen percent after six years. Non-recyclable waste of 1500 Kcal/kg or more is not to be disposed of on landfills, and no wet waste or construction and demolition waste goes to a sanitary landfill. Existing dumpsites are to be mapped and assessed by October 31, 2026, and legacy dumpsites biomined and bioremediated.

The Central Pollution Control Board sets up the online portal for registration and annual returns within six months of commencement, and State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees levy environmental compensation on the polluter pays principle. Chapter V sets duties for the Ministry (through a Central Monitoring Committee), other central ministries and departments, State departments, District Magistrates, the Central Pollution Control Board, urban

and rural local bodies and State Pollution Control Boards. Schedule I sets implementation timelines of eighteen, twenty four and thirty six months by population; Schedules II to IV cover sanitary landfills, processing and treatment standards and fire prevention at dump sites; Forms I to VI are the authorization, annual report and accident forms.

The notification (F. No 18/3/2022-HSM) appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), No. 360, dated January 28, 2026. By G.S.R. 371(E) of May 18, 2026, the Central Government delegated its powers under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all District Collectors for one year, exclusively for these rules.

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| S.O. number | S.O. 388(E) |
| Dated | January 27, 2026 |
| Issued | January 28, 2026 |
| Gazette ID | CG-DL-E-28012026-269620 |
| Rule | Other waste rules |
| Type | Final rules |
| Supersedes | Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 |
| Products | Solid waste |
| Before | The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. |
| After | The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, in force with effect from April 1, 2026, made in supersession of the 2016 rules except as respects things done or omitted to be done before the supersession. |
| Applies from | April 1, 2026 (rule 1(2)) |
| Completes the draft | S.O. 5369(E) of December 9, 2024; objections and suggestions received were considered |
| Conditions | • Every waste generator segregates and stores waste in four streams at source: wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and special care waste (rule 5(1)(b)).<br>• Bulk waste generators register on the portal, process wet waste or procure Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility certificates from the local body, and file annual returns by June 30 every year (rule 6).<br>• Industrial units using solid fuel within the specified distance of a refuse-derived fuel plant replace at least six percent of fuel intake from the date the rules come into effect, ten percent after three years and fifteen percent after six years (rule 11). |

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| | • No wet waste or construction and demolition waste is disposed of in a sanitary landfill (rule 14(4)); existing dumpsites are mapped and assessed by October 31, 2026 (rule 15(1)).<br>• Environmental compensation on the polluter pays principle, levied by the State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee (rule 17). |
| Applies to | Every urban and rural local body and all entities within their jurisdictions, and every domestic, institutional, commercial and other non-residential solid waste generator (rule 2); not industrial waste, hazardous waste, hazardous chemicals, bio medical waste, e-waste, battery waste or radio-active waste. |
| 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 |
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| Rule 1: Short title and commencement | Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026; in force with effect from April 1, 2026. |
| Rule 2: Application | Every urban and rural local body and all entities within their jurisdictions, including special economic zones, notified industrial areas, areas under Indian Railways, airports, ports and defense establishments, and every domestic, institutional, commercial and other non-residential solid waste generator; not industrial waste, hazardous waste, hazardous chemicals, bio medical waste, e-waste, battery waste or radio-active waste, covered under separate rules. |
| Rule 3: Definitions | Definitions (a) to (zzl), including "bulk waste generator": "(i) buildings with floor area of 20,000 sq.m. or above; or (ii) water consumption of 40000 litres per day; or (iii) solid waste generation of 100 kg per day" (at least one), for the listed institutional users, commercial users and residential societies. |
| Rule 4: Solid Waste Management | Management by local authorities covers dry, wet, special care, sanitary and horticultural waste, sanitary landfills and existing or legacy dumpsite remediation. |
| Rule 5: Duties of waste generator | Segregate and store waste in four streams at source (wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste); wrap used sanitary waste; store construction and demolition waste and horticulture waste separately; not throw, burn or bury waste in public places, drains or water bodies; pay the user fee in the bye-laws; give three working days' notice to the local body of an event of more than one hundred persons at an unlicensed place. Gated communities and institutions above 5,000 sq.m., resident welfare and market associations, hotels and restaurants ensure segregation within one year. |

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| Rule 6: Duties of bulk waste generator | Register with the local body on the portal; process wet waste in a decentralized manner (new generators set up their own facility; existing ones exempted by the local body procure Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility certificates); procure such certificates for dry, sanitary and special care waste; deal only with registered entities; file annual returns by June 30 every year. |
| Rule 7: Duties of operator of solid waste processing facilities | Register with the local body on the portal; meet the standards in Schedules II and III; file quarterly returns by the 15th of the first month of the next quarter and annual returns by June 30 in Form III; obtain authorization from the State Pollution Control Board through an application in Form I; register biomethanation and biogas plants on the GOBARDHAN portal. |
| Rule 8: Duties of the local body involved in collection, segregation and transportation of solid waste | Register on the portal; hand over collected waste to registered processing facilities; generate Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility certificates; keep waste streams segregated in transport; equip fleets with tracking devices in cities with population more than 50,000; file quarterly and annual returns. |
| Rule 9: Duties of the entity involved in sorting of recyclable or non-recyclable waste at Material Recovery Facility | Register with the local body; channel sorted waste to registered processors or recyclers; report quantities quarterly by the 15th of the first month of the next quarter; may act as an uptake point for obligated entities under other extended producer responsibility rules. |
| Rule 10: Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility Certificate for processing of waste | Only the local body generates certificates, in kilograms equal to the quantity of solid waste collected, transported and sent to registered processors or recyclers; certificates for wet waste only after the processing facility reports; valid for three years; cost set under guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board. |
| Rule 11: Duties of the industrial units and waste to energy plants located within specified distance from refuse-derived fuel plants based on solid waste | Industrial units using solid fuel within the specified distance of a solid waste based refuse-derived fuel plant (100 km for waste to energy plants or industries with boilers using segregated combustible fraction or agri-residue above 1500 Kcal/kg; 400 km for cement kilns using refuse-derived fuel grades I to III) replace at least six percent of fuel intake from the date the rules come into effect, ten percent after three years and fifteen percent after six years; they register with the State Pollution Control Board and file annual returns by June 30. |
| Rule 12: Criteria and actions to be taken for solid waste management in hilly and island areas | Local authorities may levy fees from visitors and tourists; landfills on hills and islands are avoided, with a sanitary landfill in the plains within 25 kilometers. |
| Rule 13: Criteria for waste to energy process | Non-recyclable waste of 1500 Kcal/kg or more is not disposed of on landfills and is used only for generating energy; the State Pollution Control Board examines an application to set up a waste to energy plant and grants permission within sixty days. |

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| Rule 14: Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of Sanitary Landfill | Only residual, inert and non-recyclable, non-energy-recoverable waste is landfilled; no wet waste or construction and demolition waste. A higher landfill user fee applies to unsegregated or recyclable waste until processing facilities are in place. Audits are uploaded by December 31 of the next financial year; operators file annual returns by June 30. |
| Rule 15: Environmentally sound management of existing solid waste dumpsites | All existing dumpsites and garbage vulnerable points mapped and assessed by October 31, 2026; legacy dumpsites biomined and bioremediated, with progress uploaded quarterly; no fresh waste on dumpsites under biomining. |
| Rule 16: Centralised Online Portal | Set up by the Central Pollution Control Board within six months of commencement of the rules for registration and annual returns of all obligated entities, with a public dashboard. |
| Rule 17: Imposition of Environmental Compensation | Levied on the polluter pays principle by the State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee, as per guidelines prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board; kept in a separate escrow account; action under section 15 of the Act may also be taken. |
| Rules 18 and 19: Committees for Effective Implementation | A central committee chaired by the Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board, and a State committee chaired by the Chief Secretary or Head of the Union territory administration. |
| Rule 20: Annual report | Bulk waste generators (in the format the Central Pollution Control Board prescribes) and facility operators (Form III) by June 30; urban local bodies and District Level Panchayati Raj Institutions by June 30; State Pollution Control Boards to the Central Pollution Control Board by July 31 in Form V; the Central Pollution Control Board to the Central Government by August 31. |
| Rule 21: Accident reporting | The officer in charge of a facility or landfill reports an accident to the local body in Form VI. |
| Rule 22: Duties of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change | Overall monitoring, through a Central Monitoring Committee chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry, meeting at least once a year and reconstituted every three years. |
| Rule 23: Duties of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs | Reviews States and local bodies at least once a year, facilitates State policies and strategies for urban areas by September 30, 2026, sets up Material Recovery Facilities in all cities as per Schedule I, and prepares guidelines for user fees and the certificate cost. |
| Rule 24: Duties of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation | Reviews States and local bodies at least once a year, ensures States and Union territories prepare and upload State policies and strategies for rural areas by "31st September 2026" (the date as printed), sets up Material Recovery Facilities covering all rural areas as per Schedule I, and prepares guidelines for user fees and the certificate cost. |
| Rules 25 and 26: Department of Fertiliser; Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare | Co-marketing of compost with chemical fertilizers in the ratio of 3 to 4 bags : 6 to 7 bags; standards and guidelines for organic manure by June 30, 2026; testing laboratories in all districts by September 30, 2026. |

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| Rules 27 to 34: other ministries and departments | Power (tariff and compulsory purchase of power from waste to energy plants), New and Renewable Energy, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Petroleum and Natural Gas (biogas), Revenue (duty and tax incentives), DPIIT (National Single Window System for authorizations), Education (solid waste management in school curriculum) and Panchayati Raj (provisions in rural bye-laws). |
| Rules 35 and 36: State urban and rural development departments | Prepare State policies and strategies on solid waste management within one year of notification of the rules and every five years, ensure implementation by all local authorities, and onboard all local bodies on the portal. |
| Rule 37: Duties of the District Magistrate or District Collector or Deputy Commissioner | Facilitate allocation of land for processing and disposal facilities, review local bodies at least once in a quarter, and ensure the sanitary landfill is operated as per the rules. |
| Rule 38: Duties of the Central Pollution Control Board | Coordinate with State boards, formulate standards for ground water, ambient air, noise and leachate at facilities, and review their implementation at least once a year. |
| Rule 39: Duties of urban local bodies | Prepare a solid waste action plan within one year of the State policy and strategy; identify and geo-tag bulk waste generators every year by April 1; notify the cost of Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility certificates and issue them. |
| Rule 40: Duties of local bodies in rural areas | The District Panchayat prepares a solid waste action plan within one year of the State policy and strategy. |
| Rule 41: Duties of the State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee | Enforce the rules and review implementation at least twice a year; monitor the standards of Schedules II and III; examine applications for authorization in Form I. |
| Schedule I: Time line for implementation | Urban areas: million plus cities eighteen months, 5-10 lakh twenty four months, all urban areas thirty six months; rural areas: population 20000 and above eighteen months, 10000-20000 twenty four months, up to 10000 thirty six months, from the date the rules come into effect. |
| Schedules II to IV | Specifications for Sanitary Landfills; Standards of processing and treatment of solid waste; Measures for fire prevention and management at waste dump sites. |
| Forms I to VI | Application for authorization; format for issue of authorization; annual report of a facility operator; annual report of a local body; annual report of a State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee; accident reporting. |

The notification (PDF, 2.8 MB)

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