

PWM Amendment Rules ban certain SUPs by 2022



The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, which prohibits identified single use plastic items which have low utility and high littering potential by 2022.

The waste management infrastructure in the States/UTs is being strengthened through the Swachh Bharat Mission.

In an official notification dated 13th August 2021, the Government has said that the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities will be prohibited with effect from 1st July 2022.

These include ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene or thermocol for decoration; plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic, or PVC banners less than 100 micron and stirrers.

In addition, to stop littering due to light weight plastic carry bags, with effect from 30th September 2021, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from 50 microns to

75 microns and to 120 with effect from 31st December 2022. This will also allow reuse of plastic carry bags due to increase in thickness.

The plastic packaging waste, which is not covered under the phase out of identified single use plastic items, will be collected, and managed in an environmentally sustainable way through the Extended Producer Responsibility of the Producer, importer, and Brand owner (PIBO), as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. For effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility, the Guidelines for Extended Producer Responsibility being brought out have been given legal force through Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021.

The amendments are in line with the clarion call given by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to phase out single use plastic by 2022, given the adverse impacts of littered plastic on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Further, States/UTs have been requested to constitute a Special Task Force for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. A National Level Taskforce has also been constituted by the Ministry for taking coordinated efforts to eliminate identified single use plastic items and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

The State /UT Governments and concerned Central Ministries/Departments have also been requested to develop a comprehensive action plan for elimination of single use plastics and effective implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and its implementation in a time bound manner.