

The banner features the AIPMA logo on the left, the title 'PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES - 2021 & ITS IMPLICATIONS' in the center, and a graphic of a recycling bin on the right. It includes the date '23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. 2021 Tuesday' and time '4:00 - 5:30 PM'. Logos for 'POLYMERUPDATE' and 'PLASTIVISION' are at the bottom right.

## Proposed Amendment of Plastic Waste Management Rules- 2021 & its Implications

### Held On 23<sup>rd</sup> March @ 4.00PM

**PLASTICS ARE NOT INHERENTLY BAD. IT'S WHAT WE DO OR DON'T DO WITH THEM THAT COUNTS – SYLVIA EARLE**

The Government of India has proposed amendments with the objective of phasing out Single Use Plastic products & accordingly SUP has been defined and certain specific products have been declared to be phased out over a period of time. The proposed amendments are likely to disrupt functioning of units engaged in production of such items.

It is the objective of this webinar to put forward interpretation of proposed amendments & implications on processing industry.

Plastic processing industry is aligned to the objective of a clean environment and sustainable model leading to a circular economy.

Plastic visible pollution (only few percent of total plastic consumption) emanates from littering habits of society and inadequate infrastructure to address scientific waste management of post consumption waste of plastic through segregation at source, collection and disposal using various avenues like

mechanical recycling, chemical recycling, waste to fuel and waste to energy through incineration bringing end of life of product.

The issue of phasing out Single Use Plastics popularly known as "SUP's" has been looming large on the industry in absence of clarity on the term or assignment of term SUP to specific products.

Although the term has been commonly used as of date, only a handful of products have been qualified as SUP's by developed countries in spite of high per capita consumption of plastic products. From Indian context, plastics remain growth enabler of the economy across all segments of industrial activity necessitating due caution against disruption of the industry.

With the potential nation-wide ban on various single use and other plastic products, those associated with the industry and millions of livelihoods will be put to risk. It would also impact the consumer choices, costs, health and safety. Therefore, it is recommended that the prudent wayforward is not an outright ban on plastic products but rather finding solutions to the problem of plastic waste management. Also, as the ban is expected to hit more than 10-15 lakh jobs and closure of large number of manufacturing units.

**Talking about the newly introduced draft notification of The Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules issued MOEFCC,** AIPMA has been leading the deliberation with the government on regular basis. We have had meetings with the ministers, internal discussions with industry experts sent our suggestions and recommendations on the proposed rules and are taking every step to help the industry.

**OUR EXPERTS FOR THE EVENING WERE:**

**Dr D D Kale** – He spoke in detail about the proposed amendment in Plastic Waste Management Rules and gave its background.

**Mr. Swapan Kumar Ray** - Honorary Secretary of Indian Center for Plastics in the Environment. He informed all present about Single Use Plastics (SUP) as defined in PWM amendment vis-à-vis global scenario. He elaborated on the items that a banned under the single use plastic, he mentioned that even the film used in cigarette boxes was in the banned items list so much so that if it's banned, the cigarettes would become soggy in the rains as there would be no protection. Further as a final analysis he mentioned:

We have to expand & upgrade Plastic Waste Management policies & infrastructure, create extensive awareness campaigns & promote and incentivize recycling these are just a few ways to create awareness.

**Mr. Haren Shanghavi** - Past President AIPMA, Co Chairman, Environment Committee. He informed all present about the Implication of the PWM amendment and way forward. AIPMA had given a few suggestions before the notifications and amendments, some of those points and the implications there of were pointed out by him. **One such point was:** Increasing thickness of Plastic Film or Carry Bags will just increase polymer consumption and not influence or improve Waste Management. **The Draft Notification was:** Carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic, shall not be less than one hundred and twenty (120) microns in thickness with effect from 30.9.21 and **the implications for the same were:** In the 2016 Notification Plastic Carry bag was replaced with Plastic Packaging.

- Subsequently in this Notification they have also clarified and replaced Carry bags with Packaging.
- In this line they mention Carry bag thickness which means all Packaging would be 120 Microns and not just carry bags.
- Clarification if any must be made that the thickness limitation should be to the extent of Carry bags only as defined and not to other packaging to avoid official deciphering the act otherwise and trouble the industry.

After the presentations by the experts, the floor was left open for discussion and Q&A round, it was convened by Mr Jayesh Rambhia – Past President AIPMA. A lot of queries were raised by the people attending. The webinar was attended by over 500 people from the Plastic Industry.

The session ended with the vote of thanks given by our Senior VP – Mr Kishore Sampat.