

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

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NOTICE

>>> ANNUAL RETURN FILING DEADLINE FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING EPR EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 FOR FY 2023-24

Source: SGS

In a significant update, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has announced an extension in the timeline for filing the Annual Return (AR) by registered Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) as well as Plastic Waste Processors (PWP) for the fiscal year 2023-24. According to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Guidelines notified by MoEF&CC as the IV Amendment to the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules on February 16, 2022, PIBOs and PWP who were registered during the fiscal year 2022-24 on the EPR Plastic Portal are required to file their Annual Returns for FY 2023-24 by June 30, 2024, and April 30, 2024, respectively. However, following the issuance of an Office Memorandum (OM) dated June 18, 2024, by MoEF&CC, it has been officially communicated that the deadline for filing the Annual Return on the EPR portal for plastic packaging for the FY 2023-24 has been extended to September 30, 2024, for both PIBOs and PWP registered during the year FY 2022-24.



F. No. CP-20/28/2023-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO-Part(1)

Date: 01.07.2024

NOTICE

Sub: - Extension in timeline for filing of Annual Return (AR) by registered Producers, Importers & Brand owners (PIBOs) / Plastic Waste Processors (PWP) for FY 2023-24

- 1.0 The PIBOs & PWP who are registered during FY 2022-24 on the EPR Plastic Portal are required to file their Annual Returns for FY 2023-24 on or before 30.06.2024 & 30.04.2024 respectively as per provision of EPR Guidelines notified by MoEF&CC as IV Amendment to PWM Rules on 16.02.22.
- 2.0 Consequent upon OM dated 18.6.24 issued by MoEF&CC, this is to inform that the timeline for filing of annual return on EPR portal for plastic packaging, for the FY 2023-24 by PIBOs & PWP registered during the year FY 2022-24, has been extended till September 30, 2024.

All PIBOs/PWP are required to ensure that their AR is filed on the EPR portal within the stipulated timelines.

This issues with approval from Competent Authority.

(Divya Sinha)
Director & I/c, UPC-II

»» NAVI MUMBAI: NMMC CRACKS DOWN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC, FINES SHOPS, SEIZES 35 KG OF BANNED BAGS

Source: Press Free Journal

The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has stepped up its efforts to eradicate the use of single-use plastic bags by vendors and commercial establishments. Between July 1 and July 7, NMMC executed a special campaign involving unannounced inspections and raids in various wards. Throughout this operation, 15 shops were discovered using prohibited plastic bags, resulting in fines amounting to Rs 75,000 and the confiscation of 35 kg of banned plastic items.

This crackdown is designed to facilitate the transition of both shop owners and residents towards eco-friendly alternatives such as cloth bags. Notably, in Belapur, four shops were fined Rs 20,000 and 8 kg of plastic bags were seized. Similarly, in the Nerul ward, two shops were penalized for possessing banned bags. Health inspectors conducted spontaneous visits to enforce these regulations.

Residents were also advised to refrain from using single-use plastics for their daily shopping and were educated on the environmental harm caused by these materials. The NMMC appeals for cooperation from the community in embracing cloth bags to help alleviate environmental damage.



»» PLASTIC INDUSTRY AMONG LEADING CONTRIBUTORS TO ECONOMY, PROVIDES HUGE JOB OPPORTUNITIES: GOVT

Source: SGS

Mumbai, July 11, 2024 — SGS, a global leader in certification and testing services, has announced the expansion of its EN15343 Plastics Recycling Traceability and Assessment of Conformity and Recycled Content Product Certification Scheme to India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. This initiative follows accreditation from ENAC, the Spanish National Accreditation Body, enabling SGS to support sustainability and regulatory compliance efforts in South Asia.

The UNE-EN-15343:2008 standard specifies procedures for tracking recycled plastic content in products, crucial under Spain's Law 7/2022 on the Excise Tax on Non-Reusable Plastic Packaging. This law, which came into force on January 1, 2023, requires companies to quickly adapt to demonstrate recycled content, providing opportunities for tax exemptions or reductions.

SGS's certification targets a wide range of plastic products made from mechanically recycled plastics, including PET sheets, PVC films, thermoforming products, electronic components, automotive parts, textiles, hardlines, and single-use plastic packaging. For European countries, the certification acts as evidence of recycled content in imported plastics, helping reduce tax liabilities.

The EN15343 certification covers two key aspects: the certification of recycled plastic content, which verifies the percentage of recycled material in the final product, and the traceability of recycled plastic, ensuring materials are properly sourced and processed. This is applicable to recyclers, converters, packers, collectors, and sorters, reinforcing transparency and accountability in the recycling process. Achieving ENAC-accredited UNE-EN-15343 certification through SGS provides numerous benefits for businesses. Companies can reduce or eliminate excise duties on non-reusable plastic packaging and ensure "end-to-end traceability" from sorted waste input to the finished product. This certification supports sustainable development goals, the circular economy, and the 2030 Agenda by demonstrating a commitment to reducing environmental impact.

Shailesh Sharma, Director of Connectivity & Products - Softlines and Hardlines at SGS India, expressed enthusiasm about the expansion: "We are delighted to expand EN15343 certification to India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. This enhances our ability to promote sustainability and regulatory compliance within the plastics industry across these key South Asian markets."

This expansion is a significant step in assisting businesses to navigate the complex environmental and regulatory landscape, contributing to a more sustainable future. SGS's expertise in conformity assessment and traceability offers vital support to companies aiming to meet modern environmental challenges while maintaining competitiveness.

»» SUSTAINABILITY STARTUP RICRON PANELS RAISES SERIES A FUNDING LED BY BOON SUSTAINABILITY

Source: India CSR

Gujarat-based sustainability startup Ricron Panels has raised Series A funding led by Boon Sustainability Technologies, along with participation from investors such as Harsh Mohunta, Dinesh Babbar, and Veromint Advisors. The funds will go toward helping Ricron become more visible in India, improving marketing initiatives, paying for capital expenses, and fostering general expansion. Ricron Panels, founded by Rahul and Radhika Chaudhary, specializes in converting low-value multi-layer plastic (MLP) waste into high-quality, eco-friendly building materials, offering sustainable alternatives to traditional materials like plywood and cement. Ricron's innovative technology recycles 5,000 tons of plastic annually, producing waterproof, fire-retardant, and impact-resistant materials used in construction and furniture. The company aims to increase its recycling capacity to 24,000 tons per year within two years and expand its manufacturing facilities across India. Ricron is well-known for its beneficial effects on the environment, which include reducing CO2 emissions and averting deforestation. Notable clients include L&T, Tata Projects, and Decathlon. The recent funding will bolster Ricron's efforts to scale its operations and reinforce its role in promoting sustainable building solutions.

PLASTIC RECYCLING



>>> RECYCLING FIRMS UNITE TO OPPOSE REUSABLE PLASTIC BAG BAN

Source : Resource Recycling



EFS-Plastics, Merlin Plastics, and PreZero US are advocating against California's Senate Bill 1053 and Assembly Bill 2236, which would ban reusable plastic bags made from 40% post-consumer resin. According to Roxanne Spiekerman of PreZero US, the prohibition would force people to use non-recyclable or high-carbon-footprint alternatives including canvas, poly-woven, and paper bags, which would have a negative impact on the environment. The alliance proposes including these bags in the state's extended producer responsibility program (SB 54) to improve recycling and maintain demand for recycled resin.

Regarding recyclability claims, the California Attorney General's office is now investigating major industry associations and plastic bag manufacturers. Attorney General Rob Bonta has issued subpoenas to major manufacturers and industry groups, prompting legal disputes over compliance and advocacy tactics. A court hearing on the matter is scheduled for September 18.

>>> RECYCLABLE, LIGHT-BLOCKING SHRINK SLEEVE PATENTED

Source : Resource Recycling



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>>> SGS TO OFFER EN15343 PLASTICS RECYCLING CERTIFICATION IN INDIA, BANGLADESH, AND SRI LANKA AFTER ENAC ACCREDITATION

Source: Economic Times

Mumbai, July 11, 2024 — SGS, a global leader in certification and testing services, has announced the expansion of its EN15343 Plastics Recycling Traceability and Assessment of Conformity and Recycled Content Product Certification Scheme to India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. This initiative follows accreditation from ENAC, the Spanish National Accreditation Body, enabling SGS to support sustainability and regulatory compliance efforts in South Asia. The UNE-EN-15343:2008 standard specifies procedures for tracking recycled plastic content in products, crucial under Spain's Law 7/2022 on the Excise Tax on Non-Reusable Plastic Packaging. This law, which came into force on January 1, 2023, requires companies to quickly adapt to demonstrate recycled content, providing opportunities for tax exemptions or reductions. SGS's certification targets a wide range of plastic products made from mechanically recycled plastics, including PET sheets, PVC films, thermoforming products, electronic components, automotive parts, textiles, hardlines, and single-use plastic packaging. For European countries, the certification acts as evidence of recycled content in imported plastics, helping reduce tax liabilities. The EN15343 certification covers two key aspects: the certification of recycled plastic content, which verifies the percentage of recycled material in the final product, and the traceability of recycled plastic, ensuring materials are properly sourced and processed. This is applicable to recyclers, converters, packers, collectors, and sorters, reinforcing transparency and accountability in the recycling process. Achieving ENAC-accredited UNE-EN-15343 certification through SGS provides numerous benefits for businesses. Companies can reduce or eliminate excise duties on non-reusable plastic packaging and ensure "end-to-end traceability" from sorted waste input to the finished product. This certification supports sustainable development goals, the circular economy, and the 2030 Agenda by demonstrating a commitment to reducing environmental impact. Shailesh Sharma, Director of Connectivity & Products - Softlines and Hardlines at SGS India, expressed enthusiasm about the expansion: "We are delighted to expand EN15343 certification to India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. This enhances our ability to promote sustainability and regulatory compliance within the plastics industry across these key South Asian markets." This expansion is a significant step in assisting businesses to navigate the complex environmental and regulatory landscape, contributing to a more sustainable future. SGS's expertise in conformity assessment and traceability offers vital support to companies aiming to meet modern environmental challenges while maintaining competitiveness.

RULES/POLICY

➤➤➤ CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS DEMAND TRANSPARENCY IN GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Source: Down to Earth

In preparation for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meeting in August, 133 civil society groups are advocating for transparency in selecting technical experts for the upcoming international plastics treaty. With over 170 countries set to meet in Bangkok, these groups emphasize the need for inclusive participation. They express concerns about the limited involvement of civil society, which could jeopardize the treaty's success in addressing plastic pollution.

The groups call for an open application process for technical experts and argue that diverse perspectives are crucial for effective solutions. They stress that excluding these voices may hinder progress on this global issue.



➤➤➤ NASHIK CIVIC BODY FINES 31 TRADERS RS 1.6 LAKH FOR BANNED PLASTIC USE

Source: Times Of India

In a recent enforcement effort against prohibited plastics, the Nashik Municipal Corporation (NMC) has fined 31 traders a total of Rs 1.6 lakh over two days. Directed by municipal commissioner Ashok Karanjkar, the NMC's solid waste department conducted inspections across over 400 establishments in Nashik, discovering 31 traders using banned plastics and confiscating 73 kg of illegal materials.

The state's comprehensive ban covers the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of single-use plastics. To enforce this, NMC fines violators Rs 5,000 for the first offense, escalating for repeat offenses. Since July 1, the NMC has fined over 100 traders, collecting Rs 5 lakh. Previously, they seized 22.4 quintals of banned plastics, collecting Rs 17.4 lakh in fines from 340 violators in April and May. Commissioner Karanjkar emphasized strict enforcement to mitigate environmental hazards and promote sustainable practices. The NMC will continue inspections to ensure compliance, fostering eco-friendly alternatives in Nashik.

➤➤➤ 6 LAKH FAKE POLLUTION-TRADING CERTIFICATES DISCOVERED IN THREE STATES

Source: The Hindu

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has uncovered a major scandal involving over 6 lakh fake pollution-trading certificates in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. Audits revealed that four plastic-recycling companies—Enviro Recycle Pvt. Ltd, Shakti Plastics Industries, Technova Recycling India Pvt. Ltd, and Asha Recycle Pvt. Ltd—issued more Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates than they could legitimately produce.

EPR certificates, essential for companies using plastic packaging to meet recycling targets, are issued by registered recyclers. The discrepancy between claimed and actual recycling capacities highlights systemic issues in the EPR system. Only a small fraction of the 2,348 registered recyclers have been verified physically, suggesting the number of fake certificates might be higher. In response, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board ordered Technova to shut down. This scandal emphasizes the need for stricter oversight and transparency to maintain the integrity of environmental regulations.



➤➤➤ SUPREME COURT DECISIONS WEAKEN EPA'S AUTHORITY ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Source: The New York Times

The Supreme Court has recently curtailed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) power to regulate pollution, influenced by conservative activists challenging regulatory costs. The conservative majority has weakened federal agencies' authority, notably dismantling the Chevron doctrine, which had allowed courts to defer to agencies on ambiguous laws. This impacts not only the EPA but also healthcare and safety regulators. Recent rulings blocked the EPA's "good neighbor rule" for interstate air pollution and restricted its ability to regulate greenhouse gases and wetlands. These decisions, part of a coordinated conservative effort, could hinder future environmental regulations.

Despite these setbacks, President Biden is committed to reducing emissions, highlighting the need for Congress to modernize environmental laws amidst political gridlock.

➤➤➤ PUNE: MPCB SHUTS DOWN KONDHWA-BASED MANUFACTURING UNIT FOR ILLEGAL PLASTIC PRODUCTION

Source: My Pune Pulse

In a decisive action against plastic pollution, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has shut down Jalaram Plastic in Kondhwa, Pune, for illegal plastic production. On July 10, MPCB issued a closure notice after a June 29 inspection revealed the production of 300 kg of banned plastic bags below 300 microns. The unit lacked necessary regulatory approvals, including an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificate and plastic registration per the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. A ₹25,000 fine was imposed, paid to the Pune Municipal Corporation. This action is part of MPCB's efforts to enforce environmental regulations and reduce plastic pollution.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

>>> INDORAMA VENTURES LAUNCHES 'PET YOUTH CAMP FOR SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC MANAGEMENT'

Source: The Nation

Indorama Ventures, in collaboration with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and its Department of Education, launched the 'PET Youth Camp for Sustainable Plastic Management' on July 8, 2024, in Bangkok. The camp engaged 60 teachers and students from 20 BMA schools in activities focused on waste management, recycling innovation, and leadership skills. In order to have firsthand experience with PET recycling, participants also went to the Wongpanit Suvarnabhumi Recycling Station. The Sustainable Plastic Waste Management project, which is in its second year, intends to teach 40,000 students in 337 BMA schools by the year 2025.



>>> FROM TRASH TO CASH: GOKONGWEI'S URC FORMS WASTE MANAGEMENT JV TO ADDRESS PLASTIC POLLUTION

Source: Bilyonaryo

Universal Robina Corporation (URC), under the Gokongwei family, has taken a significant step towards environmental stewardship through a partnership with Greencycle Innovative Solutions Inc. With a P27 million initial investment, this alliance seeks to create a complete waste management system with a reduction in plastic trash.

URC's goal is to mitigate plastic waste by collecting, treating, and processing it into reusable or recyclable products. The joint venture company (JVCo) is set to commence operations by September 2024, pending the required governmental approvals and permits. This initiative supports URC's efforts to comply with the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022, which mandates producers to manage the lifecycle of their products, including post-consumer waste.

>>> THIS COMPANY MANAGES NEARLY 90% OF MUMBAI'S MUNICIPAL WASTE

Source: The Forbes

Antony Waste Handling Cell (AWHC), managing nearly 90% of Mumbai's municipal waste, was founded in 2001 and is the only publicly listed municipal solid waste (MSW) company in India. The company offers comprehensive waste management services including collection, sweeping, transportation, processing, and disposal. It handled 4.66 million metric tonnes of waste in FY24, diverting it from landfills. Founded by Jose Jacob Kallarakal, AWHC operates Asia's largest single-location waste processing plant in Kanjurmarg, Mumbai, and uses advanced technology like GPS and RFID for efficient waste management. The company's recent efforts include a waste-to-energy plant in Pimpri Chinchwad, converting non-recyclable waste into renewable energy.

Despite challenges in regulatory compliance and financing, AWHC has shown significant growth. Its revenue in FY24 was ₹896.4 crore, and the net profit was ₹99.9 crore. The company's fleet includes over 2,300 vehicles, and it operates in various segments like waste collection and transportation, waste processing, and construction and demolition waste management. AWHC's successful IPO in December 2020, which raised ₹300 crore, has helped the company broaden its funding access and undertake larger projects, solidifying its position in India's waste management sector.

DO YOU KNOW

THE COURT SUGGESTED THE HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR TOURISTS TO CARRY A GARBAGE BAG TO CLEAN UP ANY WASTE THEY MAY GENERATE DURING THEIR VISIT.

NEW RESEARCH/INOVATION

>>> SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY FINDS BIORESEARCH APPLICATION FOR RECYCLED PLASTIC

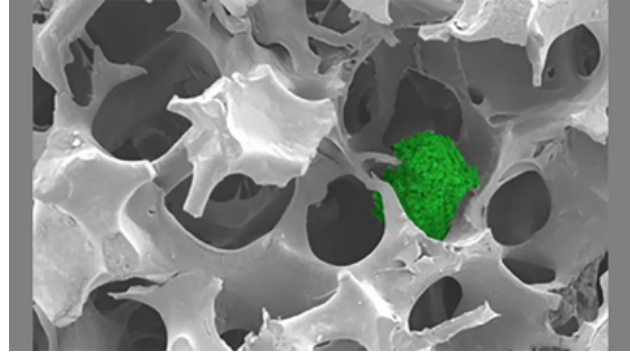
Source: Recycling Today

Researchers at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore have developed innovative methods to repurpose plastic waste into valuable materials.

One project converts discarded acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) from keyboards into "mini tumors" for medical testing, offering an alternative to existing cell culture matrices.

Another initiative transforms marine plastic litter into hydrogen fuel and carbon additives for polymer foams, enhancing strength and durability.

A third project uses LEDs and catalysts to convert plastics like polypropylene and polystyrene into compounds for energy storage. These breakthroughs demonstrate potential end markets for plastic scrap, advancing the circular economy and reducing environmental impact.



The "tumors" application involves converting acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) commonly used in computer equipment into a medical laboratory product.

>>> ALASKANS INNOVATE TO ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Source: Resource Recycling



Grizzly Wood is made of 100 % plastic waste, which limits color options but holds up well to the state's harsh climate.

A small company in Alaska, Alaska Plastic Recovery, is tackling marine plastic pollution by creating composite lumber from recycled plastics. Using post-consumer and post-industrial PET, HDPE, LDPE, and PP, they produce "Grizzly Wood" plastic lumber. The company collects plastics through beach cleanups and community drop-offs, aiming to repurpose materials within Alaska. Unlike other composite lumber, Grizzly Wood contains no binders or fillers, resulting in colorful boards. Mobile production units allow them to process plastics on-site in coastal communities, reducing shipping costs. In 2024, the company processed over 36,000 pounds of plastic, more than doubling their 2023 total. Their products, ideal for wet conditions, have been used in projects like the Homer Trails Alliance trail.

DO YOU KNOW?



**RECYCLING CREATES 6 TIMES MORE JOBS
THAN LAND-FILLING AND 36 TIMES MORE THAN
INCINERATING.**



ACCORDING TO A RECENT REPORT BY RABORESEARCH, THE DEMAND FOR RECYCLED POLYMERS IS INCREASING IN THE US AND UK, DRIVEN BY REGULATIONS AND COMPANY PLEDGES. RABOBANK HIGHLIGHTS THAT EUROPE, WHICH CONSUMES OVER HALF OF GLOBAL PCR, WILL NEED SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET FUTURE DEMAND.