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Customs: compliance and licensing under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Extended Producer Responsibility

Background

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ('MoEF'), notified Rules to regulate the handling and management of

Plastic waste

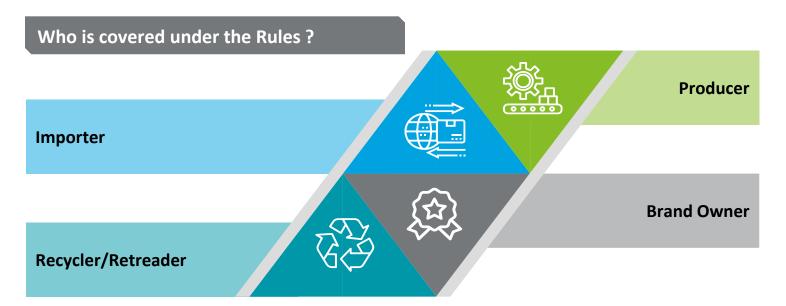
Battery waste

e-waste

Waste tyres

Used Oil

Extended Producer Responsibility ('EPR') aims to assign the responsibility on a producer for the environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life. EPR guidelines includes Reuse, Recycling, Use of recycled content, and End of life disposal



Upcoming EPR's

EPR for Scrap of Non-Ferrous metals

EPR for End-of-Life Vehicles

EPR Sub-categories



Plastics - Plastic Waste Management Rules

- Rigid plastic packaging;
- Flexible plastic packaging of single layer or multilayer (more than one layer with different types of plastic), plastic sheets or like and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags, plastic sachet or pouches
- Multilayered plastic packaging (at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic)
- Plastic sheet or like used for packaging as well as carry bags made of compostable/ bio-degradable plastics.



Batteries - Battery Waste Management (BWM) Rules, 2022

- Portable batteries used in consumer electronics which are rechargeable
- Portable batteries, except those used in consumer electronics which are rechargeable
- Electric Vehicles (EV) battery of e-rickshaw (three-wheelers), two-wheelers and for four wheelers
- Automotive battery
- Industrial battery





E-waste – E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022

 Electric and Electronic Equipment's listed under Schedule I of Rules



Tyre waste

Tyres - Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2022

- New Tyre
- Waste Tyre



Used Oil

- Used and Waste Oil- Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Second Amendment Rules, 2023
- Base Oil, Lubrication Oil & Used oil
- *Used oil- any oil derived from crude oil or mixtures containing synthetic oil including spent oil, used engine oil, gear oil, hydraulic oil, turbine oil, compressor oil, industrial gear oil, heat transfer oil, transformer oil and their tank bottom sludges and also suitable for reprocessing.

Polling question 1



Are you aware about the CPCB notified EPR guidelines and product coverage under EPR?

- Yes, I am aware
- Yes, but it's not clear
- No, I am not aware
- Not applicable



Extended Producer Responsibility – Illustrative Industry/Sector Covered



Plastic Waste

- Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) - Milk packets, cooking oil in plastic bottles
- Pharmaceutical Capsules and tablets packed in plastic bottles
- Automobile Industries -Car parts, and other vehicle parts in plastic packaging
- Agriculture and agribusiness - Plastic packaging for seeds, fertilizers etc.



Battery Waste

- Consumer electronics -Smartphones, laptops, tablets, cameras etc.
- Automotive Electric vehicles
- Aerospace Aircraft, satellites, spacecraft
- Healthcare Medical devices such as pacemakers, hearing aids and other diagnostic equipment
- Telecommunications Cell towers, base stations and network equipment
- Renewable energy Solar power and wind power systems



E-Waste

- IT and Telecommunication equipment – Computers, printer, telephone, router
 Consumer electronics –
 TV, Refrigerator, AC etc.
- Electronic equipment's Freezers, Dish washer, Microwave, etc.
- **Electronic Tools** Drills, Sewing machine, etc.
- Toys and sports Electric car racing set, Video games, etc.
- Medical devices –
 Cardiology equipment,
 ventilator, etc.



Waste Tyres

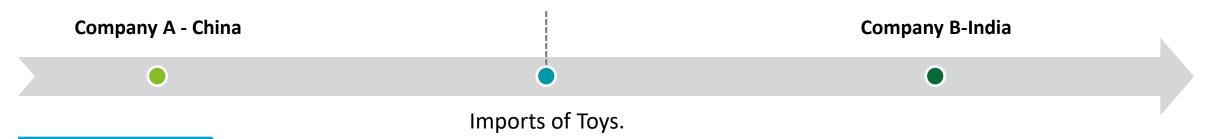
- Transportation and Logistics - Tyres of commercial trucks, buses, delivery vehicles
- Aerospace Aircraft, smaller planes having landing gear
- Automobile Industries -Car, bike, bicycles, sports utility vehicles, etc.
- Heavy Machinery and Equipment - bulldozers, loaders, mining trucks, forklifts etc.
- Agriculture tractors, combine harvester etc.
- Maritime and boating industries - boats, shipyard equipment etc.



Used Oil

- Automobile Industries
- Railway and Défense establishment
- Transport Companies
- Industries Unit- Electronic Industries, Paper and Pulp Industries, Leather tanneries, production of Plastics etc
- Chemical Industries-Production of asbestos or asbestos containing materials, caustic soda and chlorine, mineral acids etc
- Textile Industries:
 Production of canvas and textiles
- Hotel or Restaurants

Case Study: Import of Toys



Facts

A company based in India, imports toys from China for sale in India.

Action

- To check whether there is a requirement of EPR registration, we need to look out whether these toys are being imported with plastic packaging or do they have rechargeable batteries.
- On examining the product, we observed that the imported toys have plastic packaging and have rechargeable batteries within them.

Result

- We identified that the toys being imported require EPR registration under Plastic Waste Management Rules and Battery Waste Management (BWM)
 Rules, 2022. Also, the importer needs to accomplish the EPR targets for both plastics and batteries.
- Company B need to promptly apply for the necessary import license from the MoEF/ CPCB before proceeding with the shipment for hassle free imports and avoid potential legal penalties.

Polling question 2



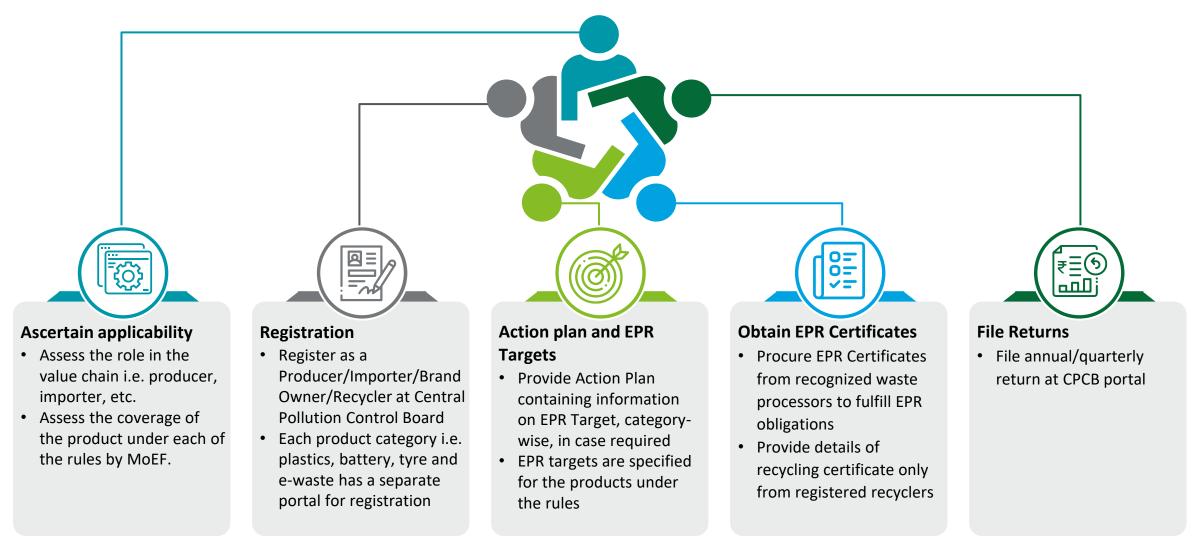
How would you rate the clarity on the EPR license applicability, application process, and post registration compliances on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being very unclear and 3 being very clear?

- 1- Very unclear
- 2 Clear with some gaps
- 3 Very clear



Extended Producer Responsibility – What you need to do?

This is a general process for EPR, specific processes are defined in the SOPs issued by the MoEF under each of the waste management Rules.



Extended Producer Responsibility – Implications of Non-compliance



Levy of Environmental compensation by CPCB



Reputational damage since environmental responsibilities are a priority



Detention of goods by Customs leading to delays in clearances and high demurrage cost



Create legal liabilities and penalties under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 *

*Imprisonment of up to five years or a fine of up to one lakh rupees, or both, may be imposed, with an additional fine of up to five thousand rupees per day if the violation continues after the first conviction. If the violation persists for more than a year after conviction, the offender may face imprisonment of up to seven years.

Extended Producer Responsibility – Environmental Compensation

Illustrative example of Battery

As per the recent draft guidelines issued by the CPCB, in July 2024, the Environmental Compensation to be levied to the Producers is divided into two regimes:



EC Regime 1

EC or non-fulfilment of metal-wise EPR Targets

- For Lead-Acid batteries INR 18 per Kg including the handling, collection and transportation cost
- **For Lithium-ion batteries** EC is calculated basis the chemical composition of the battery as below:

Sno.	Metal	Total EC Cost (INR/kg of metal)*
1	Lithium (Li)	1570
2	Cobalt (Co)	570
3	Nickel (Ni)	370
4	Manganese (Mn)	370
5	Copper (Cu)	270
6	Aluminium (Al)	120
7	Iron (Fe)	105



EC Regime 2

EC for non-compliances of BWM Rules, 2022 (Other than EPR target shortfall)

- For 1st default EC equivalent to application fees under Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, i.e., Rs. 20,000
- For 2nd default Two times of first default i.e. Rs. 40,000/-.
- For 3rd default Two times of second default i.e. Rs. 80,000/-.

Types of defaults covered:

- Non-submission of Annual Returns
- 2. Not following labelling requirements
- 3. Engaging with entities not registered on the portal
- 4. Noncompliance found in third party audit
- False reporting / not registered on the Portal / improper handling of battery waste

Polling question 3



Are you aware about your EPR targets and obligations?

- Yes, I am aware
- Yes, but it's not clear
- No, I am not aware
- Not applicable



Upcoming Extended Producer Responsibility

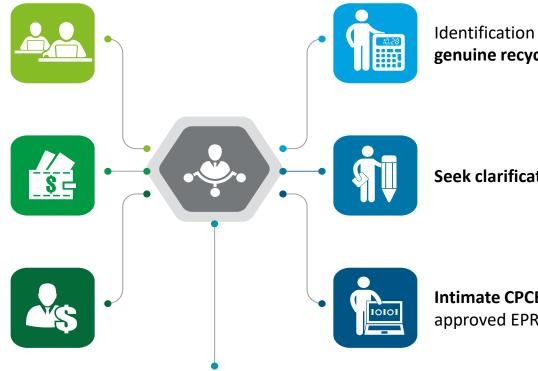
Illustrative Examples	Any product or item containing non-ferrous metals: Cans for Beverages, aerosols, Packaging Foils, Doors, windows, shutters, Utensils, Furniture, hardware's, Conductor cables & Wires, strips, Sanitary ware & fittings, Electrical fittings, toys etc.	Including all types of vehicles (electric, battery-operated, e-rickshaws, and e-carts).
Post Registration Compliances	Quarterly & Annually	Quarterly & Annually
Applicability	 A "Producer" refers to any individual or entity involved in: Manufacturing and selling products made of non-ferrous metals under its brand. Selling assembled products made of non-ferrous metals produced by others under its brand. Selling imported products made of non-ferrous metals under its or the original brand. Importing used devices, products, or scrap of non-ferrous metals. Recycling non-ferrous metals. 	 A "Producer" refers to an entity involved in the domestic market for: Manufacturing, assembling, and selling vehicles under its brand. Selling vehicles produced by other manufacturers under its brand. Importing vehicles. Manufacturing or assembling vehicles for other producers. Recycling or dismantling vehicles.
Product Coverage	Non-ferrous Metals- Aluminum or Copper or Zinc or their alloys.	Steel used in all types of vehicles (electric, battery-operated, e-rickshaws, and e-carts).
Effective Date	1 st Day of April 2025.	To be notified soon.
Rules	Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Second Amendment Rules, 2024.	Draft End-of-Life Vehicles (Management) Rules, 2024.
Parameters	EPR for Scrap of Non-Ferrous metals	EPR for End-of-Life Vehicles

What you need to do?

Assessment of EPR applicability under different categories

Filing and obtaining **EPR registration**

Post registration compliances like sales procurement data upload, filing annual/quarterly returns



Identification of CPCB authorized genuine recyclers

Seek clarifications from the CPCB

Intimate CPCB in relation to **any change** in the approved EPR registration

Procure **EPR Certificates** from the recyclers or refurbishers to fulfill EPR obligations

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