

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board

Press release

Bio-Medical Waste Management

The Bio-Medical Waste Management (BMW) Rules, 2016 notified by MoEF & CC to improve the collection, segregation, processing, treatment and disposal of these bio-medical wastes in an environmentally sound management thereby, reducing the bio-medical waste generation and its impact on the environment.

The TNPCB is the prescribed authority for implementation/enforcement of the provisions of these rules.

As per the rules, the infectious Bio-Medical Wastes (BMW) generated from the Health Care Facilities (HCFs) shall be segregated, stored and handed over to Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBMWTFs) for treatment and disposal and the infectious BMW shall not be stored beyond a period of forty eight hours.

The TNPCB has already issued various instructions to all the stake holders for proper handling of biomedical wastes as per the Rules. However, frequent complaints are received through newspapers and media on illegal disposal of BMW along the roads/river banks, water bodies, secluded areas etc.

Expired medicines, broken mercury thermometers, used needles and syringes and contaminated gauge, etc., generated at the household level are defined as "domestic hazardous waste" as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended. Domestic Hazardous Wastes substances are potentially dangerous to the environment and health.

The local authorities and Panchayats shall ensure proper storage and transportation of the Domestic Hazardous Waste (BMW) to the Common Bio Medical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility. The local bodies shall create awareness among the public about the ill effects of improper disposal of Domestic Hazardous

Waste and the local bodies shall take action on the violators involved in the disposal of Bio Medical Waste in the Municipal Solid Wastes under local body Act.

Hence, all the HCFs and local bodies are strictly instructed to ensure proper segregation, storage and disposal of BMW to the CBMWTFs only and the CBMWTFs shall ensure no unauthorised disposal of BMW, failing which stringent action will be initiated by the TNPCB against the violators.

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