



KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ., തിരുവനന്തപുരം - 695 004



KSPCB/258/2025-SEE-1

Date: 14/05/2025

CIRCULAR

Sub: - Clarification on categorisation of sectors under Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue categories

Ref: -

1. Directions issued by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 regarding harmonisation of classification of sectors under Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue categories issued vide CPCB letter dated 12.02.2025
2. Circular No. KSPCB/258/2025-SEE-1 dated 28/03/2025

As per directions issued by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) referred 1st, Board has adopted the revised classification of sectors under Red, Orange, Green, White and Blue categories vide Circular referred 2nd. Some of the sectors classified by Kerala SPCB during the period from 2016 to 2025 either became redundant or there were contradictory sectors in the new CPCB classification. Such sectors in the classification by Kerala SPCB are either deleted or put into more appropriate sectors as detailed in Annexure I.

Some of the major changes are explained further as follows:

1. Quarrying operations (Granite/Laterite/Clay etc.) - sub sector 'Mining of minor minerals (except Sand/riverbed material mining)' in orange category.
2. 'Carpentry & wooden furniture manufacturing without spray painting (excluding saw mill) with the help of electrical (motorized) machines such as electrical wood planner, steel saw cutting circular blade, etc' has been categorised as White.
The sector 'Furniture manufacturing or assembling units using MDF, particle board, novo .pan, plywood and other similar engineered wood (manufactured board)' is also recategorised to White.
3. All Non Bedded Health Care Facilities shall obtain Consent to Establish/Operate of the Board which is integrated with authorisation under Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016. These units are categorised under Green (Separate circular will be issued for handling consent/authorisation applications of such establishments).
4. Cattle/Dairy Farms having animals 15 to 500 nos has been categorised under Orange category and Dairy Farm having more than 500 animals in Red category. Dairy farms having less than 15 animals do not require separate classification.

5. The categorisation related to printing units are as follows;

5 (1) Digital printing units, which does not involve any wastewater generation shall apply for consent in the sector 'Digital Printing on flex /vinyl, PVC etc. (more than 5 machines)' under Green. Such units having number of machines 5 and below need not obtain consent of Board.

5 (2) Units engaged in printing other than digital may apply for consent under sectors in Orange category namely, 'Printing press (newspaper, books, magazines, etc./ Gravure printing' or 'Printing (other than digital) in banners of approved material'

6. As per the revised classification of CPCB, 'Building construction project \geq 20,000 sq. m. built-up area' is categorised under Orange and 'Building construction project \geq 5,000 sq. m., but $<$ 20,000 sq. m. built-up area (without connectivity to terminal STP)' is categorised under Green. It is also specified that Building construction project \geq 5,000 sq. m., but $<$ 20,000 sq. m. built-up area (with connectivity to terminal STP) may not require separate classification.

Taking into account the unavailability and connectivity to terminal STP, except in one or two cities, the potential of air pollution and solid waste generation, high population density and environmental complaints, the sectors 'Residential buildings' and Hostel/Guidance centre, Office /Commercial buildings' categorised by Kerala SPCB as per Circular PCB/T4/115/97 dated 07-Oct-22 based on built up area and waste water generation shall continue to be in force.

7. Only 'Bakery, confectionery, sweets with production capacity \geq 1 TPD' has been categorised by CPCB. Such units (Bakery, confectionery, sweets) having production capacity less than 1 TPD is hence exempted from the consent purview.

8. As per CPCB directions, standalone genset(s) of total capacity less than 1000 KVA may not require additional classification. However the used oil/waste oil generated during repair and maintenance need to be disposed through authorized hazardous waste recycler by service provider/OEM.

Hence the sector 'DG set attached to retail shop/ other establishments having area less than 2000 sqm' categorised by Kerala SPCB vide Circular No. PCB/T4/115/97(i) dated 10-Feb-2022 is cancelled.

Also 'Mobile towers using genset' has been categorised under Green. Accordingly, all such units shall obtain consent of Board under Green category. Circulars PCB/T4/115/97 dated 17-Mar-17 and PCB/T4/115/97 18-Nov-20 is cancelled.

The revisions in classification of industrial/non industrial sectors are enclosed as Annexure-I. All pending Consent applications shall be processed accordingly.


CHAIRPERSON

To

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer,
Regional Office, Thiruvananthapuram/Ernakulam/Kozhikode
2. The Senior Environmental Engineer,
District Office.Kottayam,Wayanad
3. The Environmental Engineer, District Office,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alapuzha, Idukki,
Ernakulam-1, Ernakulam-2,,Environmental Surveillance Centre Eloor,
Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasargod.

Copy to:-

- 1) All Technical Staff in HO
- 2) IT Cell (for uploading in the website)
- 3) C.A. to CHN, MS & CEE HO

ANNEXURE I

Sl No	Existing Sector	Circular No.	Circular Dated	Existing Category	Revised Sector	Revised Category	Specific Remarks if any
1	Instant tea/coffee processing (with boiler)	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	Red	i.Coffee seeds processing (wet process) OR ii.Tea processing (with boiler)	Orange	
2	Shipyard	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	Red	Heavy engineering including ship building	Red	
3	Centralised solid waste processing plant	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	Red	Essential Environmental Services for Domestic/Household Activities: Municipal solid waste management facility	Blue	
4	Clay mining	PCB/T4/115/97	27-Mar-18	Red	Mining of minor minerals (except Sand/riverbed material mining)	Orange	
5	Secondary metallurgical process	PCB/T4/115/97	25-Nov-20	Red	All Ferrous and Non-ferrous metal secondary processing/reprocessing units involving different furnaces through melting, refining, casting, alloy-making (using coal/liquid fuels)	Red	
6	Common Septage/sewage treatment plant (FSTP/CSTP)	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-21	Red	I. Sewage Treatment Plant (5 MLD and above) II. Sewage Treatment Plant (less than 5 MLD)	Blue	Septage treatment plants or FSTPs to be considered in the Sewage Treatment plant sector in Blue Category

7	Captive Thermal Power Plants - Power Generation (except wind and solar renewable power plants of all capacities and mini hydro power plants <25MW)	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Nov-21	Red	Appropriate subsector under the sector: Power generation plants	Red/Orange	
8	Bio mining of Legacy waste	PCB/T4/115/97	10-Feb-22	Red	Bio-mining of legacy waste projects	Blue	
9	Flats/Apartments/ Commercial building(Area 2000 Sqm-20000 Sqm)	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	Orange	i) Residential buildings a) Built up area > 2000 m2 Waste water generation \geq 50 KLD b) Built up area < 2000 m2 Waste water generation \geq 50 KLD ii) Hostel/Guidance centre, Office / commercial buildings a) Built up area > 2000 m2, Waste water generation \geq 20 KLD b) Built up area < 2000 m2, Waste water generation \geq 20 KLD	Orange/Green	
10	Pesticides/Insecticides/Fungicides/herbicides/Agro chemical formulation	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	Orange	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Pesticide industries	Red/Orange	
11	E-waste dismantling unit	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Feb-19	Orange	Industry engaged in dismantling (only) of e-waste, generated from the electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) listed in the E-Waste (Management) Rules 2022	Green	
12	Autoclaved fly ash bricks	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Feb-19	Orange	Fly ash bricks/ block manufacturing (with boiler)	Orange	

13	Automobile body dismantling unit	PCB/T4/115/97	25-Aug-20	Orange	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Scraping facilities for recycling end-of-life vehicles, wagons, and coaches	Orange/Green	
14	Cement Godown having no.of bags >500	PCB/T4/115/97	11-Sep-20	Orange	Bulk terminals for storage and packaging of cement	Green	
15	Li-ion Battery assembling & charging	PCB/T4/115/97	25-Nov-20	Orange	Battery manufacturing without boiler (excluding lead acid battery)	Green	
16	Vehicle dismantling End of life vehicle processing	PCB/T4/115/97	09-Jul-21	Orange	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Scraping facilities for recycling end-of-life vehicles, wagons, and coaches	Orange/Green	
17	Veterinary Centre with surgery and laboratory facilities	PCB/T4/115/97	06-Sep-21	Orange	Non-bedded HCFs	Green	
18	Cattle/Dairy Farms having no.of cattles \geq 125	PCB/T4/115/97	06-Sep-21	Orange	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Dairy farm	Red/Orange	
19	Ayurvedic Health care units/Ayurvedic Hospitals/Ayurvedic Clubs above 20 beds	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Nov-21	Orange	Appropriate subsector under the sector :Health Care Facilities (HCFs, as defined under bio-medical waste management rules, 2016)	Red/Orange/Green	
20	Briquette Manufacturing	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Nov-21	Orange	Briquette manufacturing (coal/biomass/coke)	Green	
21	Water based paint manufacturing unit	PCB/T4/115/97	03-Jan-22	Orange	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Manufacturing of paints, varnishes	Red/Orange	
22	Bakery/sweets products making with production capacity <1 tpd	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	Green	Deleted. Only 'Bakery, confectionery, sweets with production capacity \geq 1 TPD' has been categorised by CPCB. Such units (Bakery, confectionery, sweets) having production capacity less than 1 TPD is hence exempted from the consent purview.		

23	DG set attached to mobile towers	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	Green	Mobile towers using genset(s)	Green	
24	Non -woven carry bags	PCB/T4/115/97	22-Aug-19	Green	Polythene and plastic processed products manufacturing (virgin/compostable plastic)	Green	
25	Compostable substitute including compostable plastic garbage bags	PCB/T4/115/97	25-Aug-20	Green	Polythene and plastic processed products manufacturing (virgin/compostable plastic)	Green	
26	Cement godown having no.of bags ≤ 500	PCB/T4/115/97	11-Sep-20	Green	Bulk terminals for storage and packaging of cement	Green	
27	Laterite quarry	PCB/T4/115/97	06-Oct-20	Green	Mining of minor minerals (except Sand/riverbed material mining)	Orange	Category as per Circular No.KSPCB/1957/2024-SEE-1 dated 28-12-2024 is modified to this extent only. Rest of the Circular remains unchanged.
28	Open cattle farm	PCB/T4/115/97	25-Nov-20	Green	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Dairy farm	Red/Orange	
29	Lodges (without restaurants) above 6 rooms	PCB/T4/115/97	25-Nov-20	Green	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Hotels/Banquet halls having room facility	Red/Orange /Green	
30	Cattle/Dairy Farms having no.of cattles < 125	PCB/T4/115/97	06-Sep-21	Green	Appropriate subsector under the sector : Dairy farm	Orange	
31	Ayurvedic Health care units without inpatient facility	PCB/T4/115/97	06-Sep-21, 16-Sep-21	Green	Non-bedded HCFs	Green	
32	Bio fertilizer using tender coconut husk(>10HP)	PCB/T4/115/97	06-Sep-21	Green	Bio fertilizer and biopesticides without using inorganic chemicals	White	

33	Ayurvedic Health care units/ Ayurvedic Hospitals/ Ayurvedic Clubs upto 20 beds	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Nov-21	Green	Appropriate subsector under the sector :Health Care Facilities (HCFs, as defined under bio-medical waste management rules, 2016)	Green	
34	DG set attached to retail shop/ other establishments having area less than 2000 sqm	PCB/T4/115/97	10-Feb-22	Green	DELETED		Standalone genset(s) of total capacity less than 1000 KVA may not require additional classification as per CPCB Directions
35	Biodegradable Compostable Carry bags (having CPCB certification)	PCB/T4/115/97	07-Nov-22	Green	Polythene and plastic processed products manufacturing (virgin/compostable plastic)	Green	
36	Small scale baby food production	PCB/T4/115/97	07-Nov-22	Green	Food and food processing Wastewater generation < 10 KLD (without boiler)	Green	
37	Package & Label Printing	KSPCB/159/20 22-SEE-3	14-Jul-23	Green	Digital Printing on flex /vinyl, PVC etc. (more than 5 machines)	Green	
38	Furniture manufacturing or assembling units using MDF, particle board, novo pan, plywood and other similar engineered wood (manufactured board)	KSPCB/159/20 22-SEE-3	10-Aug-24	Green	Carpentry & wooden furniture manufacturing without spray painting (excluding saw mill) with the help of electrical (motorized) machines such as electrical wood planner, steel saw cutting circular blade, etc.	White	

39	Artificial teeth making	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	White	Tooth Cap/Ceramic Teeth/Removable Dentures/orthodontics production unit	Green	
40	Carpentry work with the help of hand tools only(Without electrically operated machines)	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	White	Carpentry & wooden furniture manufacturing without spray painting (excluding saw mill) with the help of electrical (motorized) machines such as electrical wood planner, steel saw cutting circular blade, etc.	White	
41	Gold die casting	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	White	Die-casting /extrusion process only	Green	
42	Paper products making such as Cover, envelope etc.	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	White	Cardboard or corrugated box and paper products (excluding paper or pulp manufacturing and without using boilers)	White	
43	DG set attached to mobile towers	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-17	White	DELETED		'Mobile towers using genset(s)' in Green category
44	Jute bag manufacturing (Excluding processing)	PCB/T4/115/97	02-May-18	White	Manufacturing of products from jute (without dyeing/ without boiler)	White	
45	Aluminium Fabrication(No painting work)	PCB/T4/115/97	21-Aug-18	White	Engineering and fabrication units (dry process without any heat treatment / metal surface finishing operations / painting)	White	

46	Cotton knitted wear	PCB/T4/115/97	21-Aug-18	White	Cotton and woollen Hosiers making (Dry process only without any dyeing / washing operation)	White	
47	Kids wear	PCB/T4/115/97	21-Aug-18	White	Garment and apparel manufacturing industry including Doubling / Reeling / TFO-Two for one unit (dry process)-without boiler	White	
48	Decorative curtains for windows & doors	PCB/T4/115/97	21-Aug-18	White	Garment and apparel manufacturing industry including Doubling / Reeling / TFO-Two for one unit (dry process)-without boiler	White	
49	Readymade garments	PCB/T4/115/97	21-Aug-18	White	Garment and apparel manufacturing industry including Doubling / Reeling / TFO-Two for one unit (dry process)-without boiler	White	
50	Socks manufacturing	PCB/T4/115/97	21-Aug-18	White	Garment and apparel manufacturing industry including Doubling / Reeling / TFO-Two for one unit (dry process)-without boiler	White	
51	Tailoring	PCB/T4/115/97	21-Aug-18	White	Garment and apparel manufacturing industry including Doubling / Reeling / TFO-Two for one unit (dry process)-without boiler	White	
52	E-Waste refurbishing unit	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Feb-19	White	E-waste refurbishing centres	Green	

53	Surgical Face Mask	PCB/T4/115/97	17-Mar-21	White	Surgical and medical products assembled only (without effluent-generating processes)	White	
54	Biofertilizer using Tender Coconut husk (upto 10 HP)	PCB/T4/115/97	06-Sep-21	White	Bio fertilizer and biopesticides without using inorganic chemicals	White	
55	Captive Wind/Solar power plants	PCB/T4/115/97	08-Nov-21	White	Solar Power generation through solar photovoltaic cell and wind power	White	
56	Covid-19 screening test kit production unit	PCB/T4/115/97	03-Jan-22	White	Surgical and medical products assembled only (without effluent-generating processes)	White	
57	Digital Printing on paper	KSPCB/159/20 22-SEE-3	07-Apr-24	White	Digital Printing on flex /vinyl, PVC etc. (more than 5 machines)	Green	
58	U.V printing units	KSPCB/159/20 22-SEE-3	07-Apr-24	White	Digital Printing on flex /vinyl, PVC etc. (more than 5 machines)	Green	

** Existing Sector and Category denotes the sector and category as per CPCB directions dated 07/03/2016 and the sectors categorized by Kerala SPCB subsequently