



File No.CP-20/9/2025-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO

08.09.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Clarification regarding distinction between Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics – reg.

It has come to the notice of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) that the terms **compostable plastics** and **biodegradable plastics** are being misrepresented and misused by certain stakeholders, including Manufacturers / Producers / Importers /Brand Owners, in product labelling, advertisements and marketing communications. Such practices are misleading and are not in conformity with the following provisions of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016, as amended.

1. Rule 3(e) of the PWM Rules, “**Compostable plastics**” are defined as plastic that undergoes degradation by biological processes during composting to yield CO₂, water, inorganic compounds and biomass at a rate consistent with other known compostable materials, excluding conventional petro-based plastics, and does not leave visible, distinguishable or toxic residue. Such materials shall conform to **IS/ISO 17088:2021**, as amended, in accordance with Rule 10(2).
2. Rule 3(ac) of the PWM Rules, 2016, “**Biodegradable plastics**” are defined as plastics, other than compostable plastics, which undergo degradation by biological processes in specific environments such as soil, landfill, sewage sludge, fresh water, or marine, without leaving any microplastics or visible, distinguishable, or toxic residue having adverse environmental impact. In terms of Rule 10(3) and 10(4) of the PWM Rules biodegradable plastics shall conform to tentative Indian Standard IS 17899 T:2022 as notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards and shall be certified by CPCB.

As per Rule 4(ha) of PWM Rules, 2016, Manufacturers of compostable plastic or biodegradable plastic carry bags or commodities are required to obtain certification from the CPCB before marketing or sale. Any marketing or sale of such carry bags or commodities without CPCB certificate constitutes a violation of PWM Rules, 2016.

CPCB has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for certification of both compostable and biodegradable plastic carry bags and commodities. As of **23.07.2026**, CPCB has certified **371 manufacturers** of compostable plastic carry bags and commodities and details of which are available at CPCB's portal <https://plastic.cpcb.gov.in/compostable/dashboard>. However, **no manufacturer of biodegradable plastic carry bags or commodities has been granted CPCB certification** under the PWM Rules, 2016.

Further attention is also invited to Rules 11(3) and 11(4) of the PWM Rules, 2016, which prescribe following mandatory labelling requirements:

1. Each plastic packaging or commodity made from compostable plastics shall bear the label “**compostable only under industrial composting**” and

‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली - 110032.

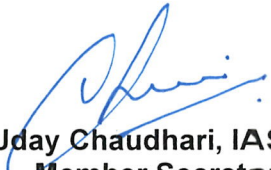
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.

दूरभाष /Tel : 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट/Website: www.cpcb.nic.in

2. Each plastic packaging or commodity made from biodegradable plastics shall bear the label "**Biodegradable in [--- specify number of days ---] only in the [---specify recipient environment such as soil, landfill, water etc.---]**"

Accordingly, it is hereby clarified that **compostable plastics** [Rule 3(e) of PWM Rules] are different from **biodegradable plastics** [Rule 3(ac) of PWM Rules], and the two terms shall not be used interchangeably in product labels, advertisements or any other communication. Further, plastic packaging or commodities made from compostable plastics must comply with aforesaid provisions of obtaining certification and mandatory labeling.

In case any non-compliance with the above provisions is observed, the same shall be submitted to the concerned State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee (contact details are available at Annexure-I) along with the sample and complete details of the manufacturer of compostable plastics, for appropriate action on the non-compliance.


(Uday Chaudhari, IAS)
Member Secretary

Copy to:

1. DH IT: With a request to upload the notice on website / Portals
2. SPCB/PCC: With request to kindly (i) widely disseminate this notice among concerned stakeholders including uploading on the SPCB/PCC website and ensure enforcement of the provisions of PWM Rules, 2016, as amended, by taking necessary action. (ii) take immediate necessary action on receipt of information on the non-compliance, as above, please.
3. RDs, CPCB: For information and necessary follow-up, please.


(Uday Chaudhari, IAS)
Member Secretary

S.No.	SPCBs/PCCs	Chairman (Contact Details)	Member Secretary (Contact Details)
1	Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pushpa Hotel Centre, Chalamvari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada – 520 010	chairman@appcb.gov.in; chiefengineer@appcb.gov.in; pa_chairman@pcb.ap.gov.in;	membersecy@appcb.gov.in; unit3-jcee@appcb.gov.in;
2	Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board Paryavaran Bhawan, Papu Hill, Yupia Road, Naharlagun- 791110	arunachalspcb@gmail.com; rksingh.ifs@gmail.com;	arunachalspcb@gmail.com; koj.rinya@gmail.com;
3	Assam Pollution Control Board Bamunimaidan, Guwahati, Assam - 781021	chairman@pcbassam.org;	membersecretary@pcbassam.org;
4	Bihar State Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhawan, Plot No. NS-B/2, Paliputra Industrial Area, Patliputra, Patna (Bihar) - 800 023	chairmanbspccb-bih@gov.in;	msbspccb-bih@gov.in; bspccb@yahoo.com;
5	Chhattisgarh State Environment Conservation Board Paryavas Bhavan, North Block Sector-19, Naya Raipur (C.G.) 492002	acs-cm@cg.gov.in;	hocecb@gmail.com;
6	Goa State Pollution Control Board Nr. Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao - Bardez, Goa - 403511	chairman-gspcb.goa@nic.in;	ms-gspcb.goa@nic.in;
7	Gujarat Pollution Control Board Paryavan Bhavan, Sector 10-A, Gandhinagar – 382 043	chairman-gpcb@gujarat.gov.in; gpcbchairman@gmail.com;	membersecretarygpcb@gmail.com; ms-gpcb@gujarat.gov.in;
8	Haryana State Pollution Control Board C-11, Sector-6. Panchkula-134109, Haryana - 134109	hspcbho@gmail.com; pschhspcb@gmail.com;	hspcbms@gmail.com;
9	Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board	chairmanpcbhp@gmail.com;	mspcb-hp@nic.in; mshppcb1@gmail.com

	Him Parivesh, Phase-III, New Shimla, Himachal Pradesh 171009		
10	Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee Summer Office: May- October Sheikh-ul-Ala Campus, Behind Govt. Silk Factory, Rajbagh, Srinagar (J&K) 190008 Winter office: November- April Parivesh Bhawan, Gladni, Transport Nagar, Narwal - 180006	chairman87jkspcb@gmail.com ; chairman.spcb@jk.gov.in;	membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com; membersecy.pcb@jk.gov.in;
11	Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board T.A Building, HEC, P.O. Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004	ranchijspcb@gmail.com;	ms-jspcb@jharkhandmail.gov.in; ranchijspcb@gmail.com;
12	Karnataka State Pollution Control Board Parisara Bhavan, 4th & 5th Floor, # 49, Church St., Bangalore - 560 001	chairman@kspcb.gov.in;	ms@kspcb.gov.in; ho@kspcb.gov.in;
13	Kerala State Pollution Control Board Plamoodu Jn., Pattom Palace P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695 004	chn.kspcb@gov.in;	ms.kspcb@gov.in;
14	Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board Parayavaran Parisar, E-5, Arera Colony Bhopal – 462 016, Madhya Pradesh	chairman@mppcb.mp.gov.in	ms@mppcb.mp.gov.in
15	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Kalpataru Point, 2nd – 4th Floor, Opp. Cino Planot Cinema, Nr. Sion Circle, Sion (E), Mumbai – 400 022	chairman@mpcb.gov.in;	ms@mpcb.gov.in;
16	Manipur Pollution Control Board Lamphelpat, Near Imphal West D.C. Office, Imphal - 795004	pcb-man@nic.in;	pcb-man@nic.in; takhellambammangi@gmail.com;

17	Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board ARDEN, Lumbyngngad Shillong – 793 014, Meghalaya	nainamalaiifs@gmail.com;	memsecy.spcb-meg@gov.in;
18	Mizoram Pollution Control Board New Secretariat Complex, Khatla Thlanmual Peng, Khatla, Aizawl - 796001, Mizoram	mpcb@mizoram.gov.in;	mpcb@mizoram.gov.in;
19	Nagaland Pollution Control Board Signal Point, Dimapur - 797112, Nagaland	npcb2@yahoo.com;	npcb2@yahoo.com; hukato07@gmail.com;
20	Odisha State Pollution Control Board A-118, Nilakanta Nagar, Unit –VIII, Bhubaneswar – 751012	chairman@ospcbboard.org;	membersecretary@ospcbboard.org;
21	Punjab Pollution Control Board Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala – 147 001, Punjab	chairman.ptl.ppcb@punjab.gov.in; chairmanppcb@yahoo.co.in;	msppcb@punjab.gov.in; msppcb@gmail.com;
22	Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board A-4, Jalane Dungri Institutional Area, Jaipur – 302 004, Rajasthan	chairperson@rpcb.nic.in;	member-secretary@rpcb.nic.in;
23	Sikkim State Pollution Control Board Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Government of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok -737102	spcbsikkim@gmail.com;	spcbsikkim@gmail.com;
24	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600032	chairman@tnpcb.gov.in;	memsec@tnpcb.gov.in;
25	Tripura State Pollution Control Board Vigyan Bhawan Pandit Nehru Complex, Gorkhabasti, PO: Kunjaban, Agartala- 799006	hoospcb-tr@gov.in; sasiifs@gmail.com; tr033@ifs.nic.in;	tripuraspcb@gmail.com; bishuk5@gmail.com; hoospcb-tr@gov.in;

26	Telangana State Pollution Control Board Paryavaran Bhawan, A-3, I.E. Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad-500 018	chief.advisor@telangana.gov.in; n;	ms-tspcb@telangana.gov.in; cee-tspcb@telangana.gov.in;
27	Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board Building.No. TC-12V Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226 010	chairman@uppcb.in;	ms@uppcb.in;
28	Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board Gaura Devi Paryavaran Bhawan, 46 B IT Park, Sehstradhara Road, Dehradun -248001	secy-for-ua@nic.in;	msukpcb@yahoo.com;
29	West Bengal Pollution Control Board Paribesh Bhavan, 10A, Block-L.A., Sector III, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata - 700 106	chairman@wbpcb.gov.in; chrnmn.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in;	mswbpcb@gmail.com; ms.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in;
30	Andaman & Nicobar Pollution Control Committee Department of Science & Technology, Dolly Gunj Van Sadan, Haddo P.O., Port Blair – 744102	dstpcc-andamans@nic.in; it.twsecretary208@gmail.com;	dstpcc-andamans@nic.in;
31	Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee Paryavaran Bhawan, Ground Floor, Sector19 B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh - 160019	cpcc-chd@nic.in; hs-chd@nic.in;	cpcc-chd@nic.in;
32	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli Pollution Control Committee Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Moti Daman, Daman – 396220	secy-health@daman.nic.in;	pcc-dnhdd@ddd.gov.in;
33	Delhi Pollution Control Committee 4th floor, ISBT Building, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi – 110006	chdpcc@nic.in;	msdpcc@nic.in;

34	Lakshadweep Pollution Control Committee Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Kavarati-682555	lk-dst@nic.in; lk-advisor@gov.in;	lk-dst@nic.in;
35	Puducherry Pollution Control Committee Housing Board Complex, III Floor, Anna Nagar, Puducherry – 600 005	ppcc.pon@nic.in;	senioree-dste.py@gov.in; ppcc.pon@nic.in;
36	Ladakh Pollution Control Committee Skara Yokma, Near KBR Airport, UT of Ladakh, Leh-194101	pollutioncontrolcommitteeh@gmail.com;	membersecretarylpcc@gmail.com; pollutioncontrolcommitteeh@gmail.com;

