

EPR Certification Guidelines

1. Background

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 on 18th March, 2016. As per the Rules, the generators of waste have been mandated to take steps to minimize generation of plastic waste, not to litter the plastic waste, ensure segregated storage of waste at source and handover segregated waste to local bodies or agencies authorised by the local bodies. The rules also mandate the responsibilities of local bodies, gram panchayats, waste generators, retailers and street vendors to manage plastic waste. The Rules mandates several new provisions including the provision of Extended Producers Responsibility.

The Goa Waste Management Corporation (GWMC) is a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Department of Science, Technology and Waste Management, Government of Goa which was enacted under the Goa Waste Management Corporation Act, 2016 and came into force on 02/10/2016. The GWMC is engaged in waste management activities in the State of Goa. The GWMC managing the following:

- a) Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) at Saligao
- b) Enhancement of SWMF at Saligao to 250 TPD (+20%)
- c) Proposed 100 TPD SWMF at Cacora
- d) Proposed 250 TPD SWMF at Bainguinim
- e) Proposed 250 TPD SWMF at Verna
- f) Verna, Cacora baling station and Bicholim MRF
- g) Proposed common biomedical waste treatment facility at Kundaim
- h) Proposed hazardous waste facility at Pissurlem
- i) Proposed E-waste facility at Sanguem
- j) Proposed C&D recycling facility at Bicholim

- k) Secondary collection and transportation of segregated non- biodegradable waste from village panchayats and educational institutions.
- l) Highway collection and transportation of waste
- m) Disposal of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) to cement factories in Karnataka
- n) Policy for Solid Waste Management in the State of Goa
- o) Setting up of 10 TPD biodigester at Chicalim and 1 TPD OWC at Nuvem
- p) Remediation and disposal of legacy dumpsites in the state of Goa.
- q) Installation of IHHL in state of Goa.
- r) Hand-holding local bodies with respect to waste management in Goa.

2. Important definitions

- a) “brand owner” means a person or company who sells/ markets any commodity under a registered brand label.
- b) “extended producer’s responsibility” means the responsibility of a producer for the environmentally sound management of the product until the end of its life;
- c) “manufacturer” means and include a person or unit or agency engaged in production of plastic raw material to be used as raw material by the producer.
- d) “multi-layered packaging” means any material used or to be used for packaging and having at least one layer of plastic as the main ingredients in combination with one or more layers of materials such as paper, paper board, polymeric materials, metalized layers or aluminium foil, either in the form of a laminate or co-extruded structure;
- e) “producer” means persons engaged in manufacture or import of carry bags or multi-layered packaging or plastic sheets or like, and includes industries or individuals using plastic sheets or like or covers made of plastic sheets or multi-layered packaging for packaging or wrapping the commodity;

- 3. Primary responsibility for collection of used multi-layered plastic sachet or pouches or packaging is of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners who introduce the products in the market. They need to establish a system for collecting back the plastic waste

generated due to their products. This plan of collection to be submitted to the State Pollution Control Boards while applying for Consent to Establish or Operate or Renewal.

4. Every producer shall maintain a record of details of the person engaged in supply of plastic used as raw material to manufacture carry bags or plastic sheet or like or cover made of plastic sheet or multi-layered packaging.
5. EPR system is based on the fact that producers are required to provide financial incentive to the collection systems, processing facilities and the recycling industry to collect and process plastic waste in order to meet the targets set out by the Government.
6. The Rule 6(3) of Plastic Waste Management Rule 2016 mention that the local body for setting up of system for plastic waste management shall seek assistance of producers. However, the Rule is silent on allocating any responsibility to the producer/importer/brand owner for establishing other part of waste management system like transportation, material recovery, recycling and final disposal. For the overall implementation of the EPR framework it is important that the producer/ importer/ brand owner should be involved in overall implementation of the projects and not only the collection.
7. The EPR Model

The primary responsibility of the collection and segregation and final disposal of the plastic waste is with the ULBs. In the present scenario, the ULBs do not have sufficient funds and expertise for systematically collect the segregated plastic waste and then supply it to the recyclers/cement plants/etc. There is a need to build the capacities of the ULB in terms of infrastructure development and their expertise so that the waste management can happen systematically under the EPR mechanism. This on one hand will implement the waste management in any ULB and on the other hand generate revenue for the ULB. The smaller ULBs where there are no facilities available for recycling or

disposal of plastic waste, the ULBs can store the plastic waste in the form of bales/pallets for any period of time, till a reasonable disposal method is available.

In Goa, the secondary collection of non-recyclable waste is carried out by GWMC and transported to central facilities where the waste is subjected to secondary segregation. The non-recyclable waste is then transported to cement factories for co-processing.

Under this model, it is proposed that the producers/importer/brand owner who are using plastic for packaging/ process or generating plastic was waste/ by-product shall contribute to the EPR corpus fund at the State level which is managed by GWMC. The amount to be contributed by each of the producers/importer/brand owner will be decided based on normative cost. These calculations are based on the generation of plastic waste viz-a-viz the efforts required and money spent by the ULB/Government to handle the plastic part of the waste.

8. The GWMC has registered with the Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) as Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) and the certificate of the same is attached as Annexure 01. The validity of the certificate is till 24/09/2021.
9. The Board of Directors of GWMC in its 11th Board meeting under Resolution no. 213 have resolved to issued Extended Producer Responsibility Certificate at Rs. 7,200/- per ton under the Plastic Waste Management Rule 2016.
10. Following are the guiding principles:
 - a) Producers/ importer/ brand owner by their own or through PRO required to ensure that an equivalent amount of plastic is being collected and processed.
 - b) Producer/ importer/ brand owner/ will lead implementation and provide funding required under the Rules on behalf of producers to support plastic recycling.
 - c) The GWMC shall exchange plastic credits (EPR certificates) for a financial transaction at a price mentioned in clause 9.

- d) The EPR compliance certificate issued by GWMC shall be submitted to the GSPCB as and when required.

11. Based on the above clauses, the following process to be followed for issue of EPR Certificates

- a) GWMC to maintain a record of waste collected, recycled and disposed.
- b) Producers/ importer/ brand owner shall make a written application to GWMC requesting to issue an EPR certificate for the required quantum of waste to meet the targets as specified by GSPCB.
- c) GWMC shall within 14 days from receipt of application, issue letter to applicant to deposit the fee (illustrating how the cost is arrived at) as required and the mode of payment.
- d) Producers/ importer/ brand owner shall upon payment of the fee's, submit the receipt of payment to GWMC.
- e) GWMC shall within 14 days of submission of receipt, issue EPR certificate to the applicant.

12. GWMC also accepts dry waste from commercial establishments (Producers/ importer/ brand owner) at Rs. 4,449/- per ton. Any establishment seeking EPR certification and disposing their waste through this mechanism of GWMC shall be given rebate equivalent to the cost (i.e. 4,449/- per ton) and hence the cost for EPR certificate for such establishments shall be Rs. 2,751/- per ton. It may be noted that the same is applicable only towards plastic waste applicable under EPR.

13. Further, other PRO can collaborate with GWMC for EPR credits in Goa. The same can be done vide one/ both of the following methods:

- a) Disposal of RDF equivalent to EPR credit required by the PRO at no cost to GWMC from one more baling station/ MRF as directed by GWMC.
- b) By buying the credits from GWMC at price mentioned in clause 9 above.