

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment and Forests**

\*\*\*\*

**Subject: Draft Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011**

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India has notified the new draft Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to replace the earlier Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 and the amendments thereof. The draft Rules are notified for information of the public and inviting objections or suggestions, if any, within 60 days. These will be taken into consideration by the central Government while finalising the Rules.

**Salient features of the draft Rules:**

- (1) These rules shall apply to all persons who generate, collect, receive, store, transport, treat, dispose, or handle bio medical waste in any form. The Rules shall not apply to radio active waste covered under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, hazardous chemicals covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import or Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989, the municipal waste covered under the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000, the batteries waste covered under the Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 and the hazardous wastes covered under the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008.
- (2) Every occupier of an health care establishment (HCE) shall either set up requisite bio-medical waste treatment facilities like autoclave/microwave/hydroclave, shredder or any other technology as approved by the CPCB/MoEF for treatment of bio-medical waste generated in his premises as a part of on-site treatment of the institution, prior to commencement of its operation or ensure requisite treatment of the bio-medical waste at an approved common waste treatment facility or any approved waste treatment facility.
- (3) It has been stipulated that irrespective of the quantum of bio-medical waste generation, every occupier of an institution which includes a hospital, nursing home, clinic, dispensary, veterinary institution, animal house, pathological laboratory, blood bank generating, collecting, receiving, storing, transporting, disposing and/or handling bio-medical waste, shall apply for grant of authorization to the prescribed authority.
- (4) Bio-medical waste shall be segregated and kept in the colour coded containers or bags at the point of generation in accordance with Schedule II of the Rules prior to its storage, transportation, treatment and disposal. Colour coding for containers or bags (Yellow, Red, Blue and Black) for collection of various

categories of bio-medical wastes, including the treatment options has been specified to avoid overlapping and confusion.

(5) Bio-medical waste shall be treated and disposed of in accordance with Schedule I, and in compliance with the standards prescribed in Schedule V. There are eight categories of Bio-Medical Wastes now, such as Human Anatomical Waste, Animal Waste, Microbiology & Biotechnology Waste and other laboratory waste, Waste sharps, Discarded Medicines and Cytotoxic drugs, Soiled Waste, Infectious Solid Waste and Chemical Waste.

(6) Duties of the Operator of Common Treatment Facility as well as of other Authorities concerned (such as Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Center or State/Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Defence, Central Pollution Control Board, State Govt./UT Administration, State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees and local bodies such as Gram Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporations) have been specified. An operator of a Common Treatment Facility (CTF) is also required to inform the Prescribed Authority about the Health Care Establishments (HCEs) which are not handing over segregated bio-medical waste in accordance with the rules. The HCEs are also required to inform the concerned Prescribed Authority in case the CTF operator is not collecting the waste regularly.

(7) The Government of every State or Union Territory shall constitute District Level Monitoring Committees (DMCs) in the districts under the chairmanship of District Medical Officer or his nominee to monitor the compliance of Bio-Medical Waste Rules in the health care facilities generating bio-medical waste as well as in Common Treatment Facilities.

(8) Compliance to the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has now become mandatory for management of bio-medical waste.

#### **How the new draft Rules, 2011 are different from the earlier Rules, 1998.**

The new Rules are comprehensive which contain important features of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, including the three amendments issued. Several new provisions have been added in the new Rules.

(1) In the new Rules, it has been clearly mentioned that these rules are applicable only to the bio-medical wastes and shall not apply to other wastes such as radio active wastes, hazardous chemicals, municipal solid waste, hazardous wastes and batteries waste, which are covered under the respective rules.

(2) In the new rules, it has been stipulated that every occupier shall set up requisite biomedical waste treatment equipments prior to commencement of its

operation or shall make necessary arrangements in order to ensure requisite treatment of bio-medical waste through an authorised common bio medical waste treatment facility.

(3) As per the earlier Rules, obtaining authorisation from prescribed authority was not required by an occupier of an institution which was providing service to less than 1000 (one thousand) patients per month. Under the new Rules every occupier or operator, irrespective of the number of patients being serviced or the quantum of bio-medical waste generation, is required to obtain authorisation.

(4) Under the existing rules, there was overlapping with regard to colour coding and segregation of waste. For instance, wastes under category-3 and 6 can be collected either in Yellow or Red bags. Similarly, wastes under category-7 may be collected either in Red or Blue bags. This caused confusion in segregation. In the new Rules, colour coding for containers or bags (Yellow, Red, Blue and Black) for collection of various categories of bio-medical wastes including the treatment options has been clearly specified to avoid overlapping and confusion.

(5) In the new Rules, duties for operator of a Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility as well as other concerned Authorities have been stipulated, in addition to the duties of occupier of a health care establishment.

(6) In the new Rules, the number of categories of wastes has been reduced from ten to eight. Colour coding for collection of non-infectious waste (general waste) has also been prescribed.

(7) The guidelines issued by the CPCB and the Central Government have been now made part of the Rules.

The full draft notification may be seen in the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests ([www.envfor.nic.in](http://www.envfor.nic.in)).

\*\*\*