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**GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**

**NOTIFICATION
(95 of 2023)**

07 JUNE 2023

Notification No.7-31/ES-III/EPA/2023, dated 06.06.2023 issued by the Environment Protection Department, is hereby published in the Punjab Gazette (Extraordinary) for general information:

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**"GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
PUNJAB**

Dated the Lahore, 06th June 2023

NOTIFICATION

No.7-31/ES-III/EPA/2023.- In exercise of the powers conferred under section 33 of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (XXXIV of 1997), the Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab, with the approval of the Government, is pleased to make the following regulations:

1. Short title and commencement.- (1) These regulations may be cited as the Punjab Environmental Protection (Production and Consumption of Single-Use Plastic Product) Regulations 2023.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. Definitions.- (1) In the regulations, unless the context or subject otherwise requires:

- (a) "Act" means the Punjab Environmental Protection Act, 1997 (XXXIV of 1997);
- (b) "Agency" means the Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab;
- (c) "banned single-use plastic" means any single-use plastic products specified in the Schedule-I;
- (d) "collector" means a person, voluntarily engaged or authorized for picking up and temporary storing of recyclable plastic waste excluding rag pickers;
- (e) "consumer" means a person either commercially or in bulk, consumes single-use plastic product excluding the single-household users and hospitals;
- (f) "Department" means the Environment Protection Department, Government of the Punjab;
- (g) "Director General" means the Director General of the Agency;
- (h) "plastic" means material containing essential ingredient of high polymer such as polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, poly vinyl chloride, low density polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene resins and multi-materials including acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, polyphenylene oxide, polycarbonate and polybutylene terephthalate etc.;
- (i) "plastic waste" means and includes non-recyclable or non-consumable plastic material, once discarded, cause adverse environmental effects;

- (j) "plastic packaging" means all types of flexible or non-flexible plastic packaging including but not limited to shopping bags, garbage bags, snacks packs, water and milk packaging, shrink wraps, bubble pellet wraps, films, liners, woven or non-woven bags, mulch films, sachets excluding disposable plastic packaging, whether used for food or non-food items;
- (k) "producer" means a person engaged in manufacture, transformation or import of single-use plastic product;
- (l) "recycler" means a person engaged in the process of recycling of plastic waste;
- (m) "recycling" means the process of transformation or segregation of plastic waste into a new product or raw material for production of new products but does not include hospital plastic waste other than non-risk plastic waste;
- (n) "regulations" means the Punjab Environmental Protection (Production and Consumption of Single-Use Plastic Product) Regulations 2023;
- (o) "Schedule" means the Schedule appended to the regulations; and
- (p) "single-use plastic product" means any plastic item or product, or packaging intended to be used once before being disposed of or recycled as specified in the Schedule-II.

(2) A word or expression used but not defined in the regulations shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the Act and the rules made thereunder.

3. Prohibitions.- (1) No person shall engage in the production, consumption, distribution and storage, etc., of the banned single-use plastic.

(2) Subject to rule 4, a person may produce, consume, distribute, store and recycle the single-use plastic product under a licence issued by the Agency.

4. Registration.- (1) The existing producer, consumer, collector and recycler of single-use plastic product, shall get himself registered with the Agency within a period of twelve months from the commencement of the regulations.

(2) Every new producer, consumer, collector and recycler of single-use plastic product, shall get himself registered with the Agency within a period of one month.

(3) An application for registration shall be made to the Agency at the notified offices or registration centers in the districts in the form as set out in the Schedule-III.

(4) The person filing the application shall pay such fee as specified in the Schedule-IV.

(5) The Agency shall establish and maintain an online registration web-portal for the registration process linked with a digital database.

(6) The Agency shall, within ten working days of filing of application, shall:

- (a) confirm that the application is complete in accordance with the Schedule-III; or
- (b) require to submit such additional information or documents as may be specified; or
- (c) return the application to the applicant, clearly requiring the shortcomings.

(7) In case the applicant fails to submit the required information or documents after three notices served to him by the Agency, with a gap of not less than seven days, his application shall deem to be withdrawn and he shall be required to submit a fresh application for registration:

Provided that the fee shall remain valid for a period of six months from the date of withdrawal of application.

(8) The Agency shall, after evaluation, accept the application and issue an online registration licence for a period of three years from the date of issuance on such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

(9) The Agency shall complete the registration process within a period of forty-five days from the date of receipt of complete application.

(10) An application for renewal of registration licence shall be made within a period of thirty days prior to expiry of its registration.

(11) The information regarding registered producer, consumer, collector and recycler shall be displayed on the website of the Department.

5. Extended producer's responsibility.- (1) The producer, within a period of six months from the commencement of the regulations, shall establish a system for collection of the plastic waste generated due to his products based on extended producer's responsibility including his financial and physical liability.

(2) The producer, consumer, collector and recycler shall implement plastic waste collection and disposal system.

(3) The producer, consumer, collector and recycler shall, for purposes of efficient plastic circularity, ensure that the waste single-use plastic product be recycled in the production and consumption cycle expeditiously by following the best international practices.

(4) The producer and consumer shall submit the copy of their extended producer's responsibility plan to the Agency for displaying it on the website of the Department.

(5) The Agency may issue extended producer's responsibility guidelines, to formulate a comprehensive and effective management plan of plastic waste collection system.

6. Responsibilities of the producer.- The producer shall:

- (a) establish a system for collection of the plastic waste generated due to his products within a period of six months from the commencement of the regulations;
- (b) ensure that the minimum requirement of twenty percent mixing of recycled material shall be met in production of single-use plastic product along with virgin material;
- (c) carry out awareness campaigns regarding proper disposal of single-use plastic product which may include, but not limited to, displaying educative slogans, or messages, etc.; and
- (d) perform other function as notified by the Agency for implementation of the regulations.

7. Responsibilities of the consumer.- The consumer shall:

- (a) take steps to minimize the use of single-use plastic product and reduce plastic waste;
- (b) undertake the segregation process at source as per the guidelines issued by the Agency;
- (c) follow a direct segregated collection method by placing separate waste disposal containers, buckets, cans, etc., at conspicuous and convenient areas throughout his respective buildings or stores or premises, as the case may be;
- (d) ensure, either himself or through collectors, that the recyclable plastic waste is channelized to a registered plastic waste recycler;
- (e) educate the public at large for proper disposal of single-use plastic product including, but not limited to, displaying educative slogans, or messages, etc.;
- (f) segregate and manage the recyclable plastic waste generated during such events as per the respective applicable extended producer's responsibility;
- (g) provide customers with free plastic shopping bags or allowing customers to buy only reusable or recyclable bags; and
- (h) perform other function as notified by the Agency for implementation of the regulations.

8. Responsibilities of the collector.- The collector shall:

- (a) collect the plastic in a timely manner as per the prepared schedule for pick-up of plastic waste;
- (b) transport the segregated plastics in a segregated manner to a registered recycler; and

- (c) perform other function as notified by the Agency for implementation of the regulations.

9. Responsibilities of the recycler.- (1) The recycler shall:

- (a) ensure proper segregation of non-risk and risk plastic waste where after the later shall be appropriately disposed of or incinerated as per the notified Punjab Environmental Quality Standards of the Agency;
- (b) avoid any hazardous contamination during the recycling process of single-use plastic product meant for packaging that directly come in contact with food items;
- (c) take adequate measures for enhancing efficiency of collection, segregation and recycling of plastic waste;
- (d) upgrade the recycling mechanism in terms of evolving scientific approach; and
- (e) perform other function as notified by the Agency for implementation of the regulations.

(2) No recycler shall recycle the risk waste, including but not limited to medical plastic wastes and containers used for packaging of toxic contents, such as pesticides, insecticides, harmful chemicals, etc., except as per the environmental approval by the Agency.

10. Powers of the authorized officer.- (1) The Director General shall notify authorized officers within a designated area.

(2) The authorized officer may:

- (a) enter and inspect any premises as provided under the Act;
- (b) take samples or carryout out test of single-use plastic product in accordance with the Environmental Samples Rules, 2001 at the spot through a calibrated instrument; and
- (c) inspect any documents for ascertaining any contravention of the regulations.

(3) On receipt of an application or on his own knowledge regarding any violation as specified in the Schedule-V, the authorized officer shall initiate an investigation:

Provided that the investigation shall be completed within seven days of receipt of the application or information of violation, as the case may be.

(4) The authorized officer, if satisfied that a violation of any of the provisions of the regulations has occurred, may take or cause to be taken all necessary measures for the protection of the environment and control of pollution.

11. Marking or labelling.- (1) The name, registered mark or registration number of the producer and thickness in case of carry bag and plastic packaging shall be printed, both in English and Urdu, on every single-use plastic product or plastic packaging.

(2) The condition mentioned in sub-rule (1) shall not be applicable to:

- (a) plastic packaging used in imported goods;
- (b) cases where it is technically not feasible to print the requisite information as per assessment of the authorized officer; and
- (c) multilayered packaging excluding multi-layered packaging used for imported goods till the date of prohibition.

(3) Each recycled single-use plastic product shall bear an identical or similar label, or a mark "recycled" as specified in the Schedule-VI.

12. Annual reports.- (1) The producer, consumer, collector and recycler shall be required to prepare and submit an annual report to the Agency, not later than one month from the 31st day of December of each ending year, in the mode and manner as specified by the Agency in the official Gazette.

(2) The Agency shall prepare a consolidated annual environment report on the use and management of single-use plastic product and forward it to the Council along with its recommendations before the 30th day of the month of May of every year.

13. Penalties.- Whoever contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of the regulations shall be punished in accordance with subsection (2) of section 17 of the Act.

14. Incentives.- (1) The Government, on recommendations of the Agency, may approve incentives for producer, consumer, collector and recycler in form of various schemes, policies and rewards etc., on provision of proof of adequate compliance of the regulations.

(2) The Agency may issue guidelines for the approval of incentives as mentioned under sub-rule (1).

DIRECTOR GENERAL
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, PUNJAB"

(AHMAD ALI KAMBOH)
SECRETARY

Government of the Punjab
Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department

SCHEDULE - I

(BANNED SINGLE-USE PLASTIC)

Sr. No.	Description
1	Ear buds with plastic sticks
2	Plastic sticks for balloons
3	Plastic flags
4	Candy sticks
5	Ice-cream sticks
6	Plates
7	Disposable Cups & Glasses made either from Polystyrene or any other plastics including paper cups with internal plastic lining
8	Cutlery such as Forks, Spoons, Knives, Straw, Trays, Stirrers, etc.
9	Wrapping or Packing Films around sweet boxes
10	Invitation Cards
11	Disposal To-Go Food Boxes
12	Cigarette Packets
13	Plastic or PVC banners less than 80 microns
14	Multi-Layered Packaging
15	Any other product or Packaging as amended by the Government from time-to-time in the official gazette.

SCHEDULE-II
(SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCT)

Sr. No.	Name of Item	Description
1	Plastic Carry/Shopping Bags	(i) Being not less than [Seventy-Five] 75 microns in thickness with effect from the date of commencement of these regulations; (ii) Shall contain a minimum of twenty [20] percent recycled plastic material mixed along with virgin plastic; (iii) The Government may, if needed, alter the thickness in accordance with its policy/strategy.
2	Other single-use plastic product and Packaging	(i) Being not less than [Seventy-Five] 75 microns in thickness with effect from the date of commencement of these regulations; (ii) Shall contain a minimum of twenty [20] percent recycled plastic material mixed along with virgin plastic; (iii) being in natural shade which is without any added pigments; (iv) The Government may, if needed, alter the thickness in accordance with its policy/strategy.
3	Hospital Products & Waste Disposal Bags (Non-Risk)	(i) Being not less than 15 Microns thickness; (ii) The Government may, if needed, alter the thickness in accordance with its policy/strategy.

Any other product or Packaging as amended by the Government from time-to-time in the official gazette.

SCHEDULE - III**(REGISTRATION FORM)****Application for Registration of
Producers/Importer/Consumer/Recycler/Collector****From:**

.....

..... (Name and full address of the applicant)

To**The** ,..... **Punjab Environmental Protection Agency**

.....

.....

Sir/Madam,

I /We hereby apply for registration under regulation 4 of the Punjab Environmental Protection (Production and Consumption of Single-Use Plastics) Regulations, 2023.

PRODUCER**Part - A (General)**

- 1.(a)** Name, Address & Location (Latitude/Longitude) of the unit
- (b)** Registration required for manufacturing of:
(i) Carry bags; (ii) Single-use Plastics
(__Name of Item__) & (iii) Plastic Packaging
- (c)** Total capacity of manufacturing
- (d)** In case of renewal, number and date of registration
- 2(a)** Year of setting-up of unit and commencement of production
- 3(a)** List of products and by-products
- (b)** List and quantity of raw materials imported/bought
- (c)** If raw material bought, then name of seller/importer

- (d) If self-import, please also fill in the form as importer attached below
- (e) Quantity of raw material utilized
4. Furnish a flow diagram of manufacturing process showing input and output in terms of products and waste generated including for captive power generation and water.
5. Status of compliance with these rules- Thickness - seventy five micron (Yes/No)

Part - B (Pertaining to Valid Permission of Unit)

6. Does the unit have a valid consent/permit under the building and construction by-laws -If yes, attach a copy

Part - C (Pertaining to Waste)

- 7(a) Total quantity of waste generated
- (b) Capacity to store within the plant (YES/NO)
- (c) Provision for efficient disposal of wastes (YES/NO)

Part - D (General)

- 8(a) Attach or provide list of personnel or Consumers to whom the products will be supplied
- (b) Action plan in line with the guidelines specified in Section 6

Name and Signature:

Designation

Date :

CONSUMER		
Application Form for Registration of Consumers excluding Individual household Units		
1.	Name and Address and Contact Information of the Business/Entity/Corporation	
2.	Type of Business/Entity/Corporation	
3.	List of Primary Single-Use Plastics consumed	1. 2. 3.
4.	Annual Procurement (weight)	
5.	Average Annual Consumption	

	(weight)	
6(a)	Whether provision of Segregated Waste Disposal Bins? (YES/NO)	
(b)	If 'Yes' to the above, how many?	
(c)	If 'No'; whether there is availability of Segregation at Source	
7	Whether the Segregated Plastics are being handed over to registered Re-cyclers or Collectors	
Name and Signature		
Designation		
Date:		

COLLECTOR		
Application Form for Registration of Collectors		
1.	Name and Address and Contact	
2.	Whether it is a Company, Proprietorship or Partnership	
3.	Name(s) of Source of Collection	1. 2. 3.
4.	Source of Disposal whether registered recycler (with name) or Landfill site or Incinerators	
5.	Average Annual Collection (weight - All Plastics)	
6.	Number of Vehicles/Persons for collection	
Name and Signature		
Designation		
Date:		

RECYCLER		
Application Form for Registration of Units Engaged in Processing or Recycling of Plastic Waste		
1.	Name, Address and Contact Information	
2.	Date since commencement of Business	
3.	No. of workers (including contract labour)	
4.	Whether registered with Labor Dept.? If yes, provide details	
5.	Products and installed capacity of production (MTA)	Products Installed Capacity

6.	Waste generation in processing plastic-waste (please list types and quantities)				
7.	Waste Collection and transportation (attach details)				
8.	Waste Disposal details	Sr. No. (i) (ii)	Type	Category	Qty
9.	Details of plastic waste acquired through sale, auction, contract or import (as the case may be) for use as raw material	(i) Name (ii) Quantity required /year			
10.	Occupational safety and health aspects (Please provide details of facilities)				
	Whether the unit has adequate pollution control systems or equipment to meet the standards of emission or effluent. If yes, please furnish details				
	Whether conditions exist or are likely to exist of the material being handled or processed posing adverse immediate or delayed impacts on the environment. Yes/No				
Name and Signature:					
Designation					
Date:					

SCHEDULE - IV**(REGISTRATION FEE)**

Sr. No.	Category	Company/ Corporation/ Partnership	Individual/ Proprietorship
1.	Producer	Rs. 300,000	Rs. 200,000
2.	Consumer	Rs. 200,000	Rs. 100,000
3.	Recycler	Rs. 50,000	Rs. 25,000
4.	Collector	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000

RENEWAL FEE			
	Category	Company/ Corporation/ Partnership	Individual/ Proprietorship
1.	Producer	Rs. 300,000	Rs. 200,000
2.	Consumer	Rs. 200,000	Rs. 100,000
3.	Recycler	Rs. 50,000	Rs. 25,000
4.	Collector	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000

SCHEDULE - V

(OFFENCES)

1. Producing or consuming the banned single-use plastics products;
2. Producing or consuming the single-use plastics products in violation of Schedule-II;
3. Not registered with the Agency;
4. Contravention of Provisions of Extended Producer's Responsibility;
5. Non-compliance of the responsibility of the producer, collector, consumer and recycler;
6. Failure to fulfill packaging and labeling requirements of single-use plastic products; and
7. Violation of any other provision of the regulations.

SCHEDULE – VI

(Marking or labeling)

Each recycled single-use plastic product shall bear the following mark:

