

## **Notification of Rules Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**

### **Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 -**

The aim of these rules is to impose restrictions on the handling of hazardous substances and to establish a control mechanism for the management of hazardous wastes.

These rules specify that the operator generating hazardous wastes shall be responsible for proper collection, reception, treatment, storage, and disposal of these wastes, either by the firm or through the operation of a special facility. Any person who intends to be an operator of a facility for the collection, reception, treatment, transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes shall make an application in the prescribed format to the SPCB for the granting of authorization for any of the above activities.

Eighteen categories of wastes were identified along with regulatory quantities to which the rules specifically apply. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has also issued guidelines for the management and handling of hazardous wastes for use by the implementing agencies and the concerned industries.

The Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules were amended in January 2000. The Amendments Rules have reclassified the wastes in two schedules, one comprising of processes with their wastes ingredients, the other listing waste substances specifying concentration limit. Acid containing residues, spent catalyst and sulphur containing residues generated during the production of acids and fertilizers have been listed as hazardous waste.

It has been specified that the occupier and operator of the facility shall be responsible for collection, reception, treatment, storage and disposal of these waste, and for taking all steps to ensure that the wastes are properly handled and disposed off without any adverse effects to the environment. Further containing contaminants, preventing accidents and limiting their consequences on human and environment, and besides providing informations training and equipment to persons working on the site to ensure their safety shall be the duty of the occupier and operator of the facility.

A time limit of 90 days has been stipulated for processing of the authorization application by the State Pollution Control Board.

This notification has also amended rules for identification of sites, designing and setting up of disposal facility, transportation, import and export of hazardous wastes for recycling and reuse.

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