



Hindustan Unilever Limited

Hindustan Unilever Limited
Unilever House
8 D Sawant Marg
Chakala, Andheri East
Mumbai 400 099

Tel: +91 (22) 3983 0000
Web: www.hul.co.in
CIN: L15140MH1933PLC002030

20 December 2017

The Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003.

Subject: Enforcement of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet you and express our concerns and suggestions on the enforcement of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

We are well aware of the growing importance and need of an efficient waste management system. With the growing pressure of environmental and social hazards around landfills, the collection, segregation and disposal of solid as well as plastic waste is of utmost importance. In this context, we appreciate and support the efforts put in by the Ministry. Having stated so, we believe that the rules in their entirety pose some concerns; making it difficult to implement in letter and spirit. Keeping this in mind, we would like to share some suggestions for the consideration of the Government of India.

1. **Mandatory phase-out of Non-Recyclable multi-layered plastic (MLP)** - As you are aware, Rule 9(3) of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, mandates a phase out of non-recyclable MLP by March 2018. MLP laminates are used to meet host of consumer demands - ranging from foods, personal hygiene products, electronics, automobile spares, lubricants, medicines and many more. In our opinion, an outright ban of MLPs such as the one proposed from March 2018, will cause extensive disruption to consumers in terms of availability of essential goods. This will be especially aggravated further in the absence of a viable and economic alternative to MLP for packaging of such products. We believe that the solution to the problem of post-consumer plastic waste lies in better waste management rather than any outright prohibition on the usage of MLP.

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Mr (MKS)



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2. Inclusion of "Energy Recovery" in as a permissible method of disposal of plastic waste – We fully recognize the need for a fair balance between the need for providing essential items of mass consumption and the impact on environment arising out of use of plastics. As stated above, there is a need to enhance the waste management efforts (instead of an outright prohibition). This can be achieved by an amendment to Rule 9(3) of PWM Rules to mandate a phase out of only materials which are **BOTH non-recyclable AND non-energy recoverable**. Energy recovery from MLP would substitute the equivalent quantity of fossil fuel which would have been used in cement manufacturing or production of electricity. Waste-to-Energy or conversion of waste to electricity would also solve the problem of piling up of wastes in landfills. In a country with growing energy requirements, this will be a very relevant approach. Many other countries such as Sweden have taken a lead in this direction.

3. National Framework for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation – We are fully aware of our responsibility under EPR. However, there is a need for a broader national framework on implementation of EPR, within which individual State Governments can setup EPR systems suitable to their local needs and circumstances. This is especially necessary for companies with multi-state operations. The industry is keen to participate in the setting up of a national framework and in our earlier representations, we have presented a "Proposal for a National Framework on EPR" for the Government of India's consideration. This framework, inter-alia, proposes a cess-based mechanism for financing EPR activities and a novel plastic exchange authority (PEBI) to oversee the implementation of the framework.

4. Withdrawal of Notices as received from State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) –It appears that there may be a difference in understanding between the SPCBs and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with regard to the enforcement of the Rules. It is for this reason we are seeing varying approaches in administering the Rules with each Pollution Control Board(PCB) placing different benchmarks for enforcement of the Rules. We have been receiving varied notices relating to the registration under the said Rules and seeking the details/enforcement of the Action Plan without providing necessary guidance, assistance or clarification to us over the same. A national, unified approach under the aegis of the MoEFCC will be critical in uniform implementation on a pan-India basis. This will also contribute to ease of doing business by providing consistency and clarity for businesses with national footprint.

We request the Ministry to hold an industry consultation with industry members, Urban/ Rural Local Bodies, representatives from SPCBs for a better understanding of the said Rules and coming up with appropriate waste management plans. We would also request you to withdraw



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the varied SPCB Notices with immediate effect and start the waste management process afresh.

We are a law-abiding company and in spite of the absence of guidelines or clarifications on the implementation of the Rules, we have made every effort to be compliant. In parallel, we have also been progressing in our waste management pilots and have continued our search for viable alternate packaging materials. Having regard to the above, we humbly request the Ministry to extend the deadlines for phasing out of Non-recyclable MLP by twelve months and implementation of EPR by twenty-four months to enable the development of National Framework on implementation of EPR and the changes in the Plastic Waste Management Rules for inclusion of Energy Recovery.

To conclude, we once again thank you for your time and patiently listening to the industry's issues. In the meantime, we seek your Ministry's favorable consideration of the above points and suggestions.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

For Hindustan Unilever Limited

Dev Bajpai

Executive Director – Legal and Corporate Affairs and Company Secretary



JINDAL POLY FILMS LTD.

Plot No.-12, Sector-B-1,
Local Shopping Complex,
Vasant Kunj,
New Delhi-110070 (INDIA)
Phone : 011-26139256 (10 Lines)
Fax : (91-11) 26125739
Web. : www.jindalgroup.com

Oct 25, 2017

To,
The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Prithvi Block
Jorbagh, New Delhi -110 003

rf
Dr (MKW)

Kind Attn: Mr. C.K. Mishra

Sub: Implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016
Ref: Our letters dated July 29, 2017 and September 11, 2017.

Dear Sir,

We are thankful to you for sparing the time to meet with us, to discuss the implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016.

We are part of the Core Group which has been formed by the CII to interact with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the intent of putting together a suitable representation to the MOEF, regarding (a) suitable clarifications and amendments in the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016, (b) the possibility of putting together a pilot project for collection and recycling of plastic waste and (c) Proposing a suitable Road Map for a practical and flexible implementation of the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016. This Road Map has been submitted to the CPCB.

Further to our earlier representations, we would like to submit the following for your kind perusal:

1. We would like to bring to your kind notice that multilayer laminates form an integral part of food packaging today. If such material is not available, this would result in significant food wastage, loss of employment, availability of processed food in urban and rural areas etc.
2. It is absolutely clear that Multilayer Laminates are recyclable (reference Annexure) and co-processable (reference to CPCB Guidelines). We therefore request you to kindly remove the phasing out of multilayer laminates, as mentioned in the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016.
3. Infrastructure for collection and segregation of multi-layered laminates to be developed for effective results.

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Based on the above, we would like to once again request for an extension of at least 2 years for proper implementation of recycling technologies and developing infrastructure for collection and segregation. A summary of our findings in this arena is attached for your ready reference.

Receipt No : 133632/2017/O/o JS(RKS)

We look forward to a favourable response regarding our aforesaid request for amendments of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. We also request that we be included in any/all written and verbal consultation/discussions regarding the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,
For Jindal Polymers Ltd.


Rahul Bhatia
Chief Operating Officer (Commercial)

Enclosed:

- a) Our Letters dated July 29, 2017 and Sep 11, 2017
- b) Annexure
- c) CPCB Guidelines for co-processing

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