

## **HAZARDOUS WASTES MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING RULES, 1989**

Various Acts, Rules and Regulations have been enacted in India from time to time to manage the solid waste. The Municipal Act is the first legislation in the post-independence India which deals with environmental pollution caused by municipal solid wastes. The Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 contains the following sections relevant to solid wastes management in Delhi.

- Section 42 (c) Obligatory function of the Corporation—the scavenging removal and disposal of filth, rubbish and other obnoxious or polluted matters.
- Section 350 Provision for daily cleansing of streets and removal of rubbish/filth.
- Section 352 Provision or appointment of receptacles, depots and places of rubbish etc.
- Section 353 Duty of owners and occupiers to collect and deposit rubbish
- Section 358 Commissioner's power to get premises scavenged and cleaned.

Recently the Government of India has laid down detailed rules and guidelines for solid waste management.

### **Summary of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management & Handling) Rules**

The Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000. These rules shall apply to every Municipal authority responsible for collection, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes. A summary of these rules is given in following sections.

**Responsibility of Municipal Authority.** Every municipal authority shall, within the territorial area of the municipality, be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of these rules, and for any infrastructure development for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing

and disposal of municipal solid wastes. The Municipal authority shall furnish its annual report to the District Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner, who shall forward the report to the State Pollution Control Board or as the case may be to the Pollution Control Committee in Union Territories.

**Power of the District Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner.** The District Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district shall have the overall responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of these rules.

**State Boards to Monitor Enforcement of Rules.** The State Pollution Control Board or as the case may be, the Pollution Control Committee in the Union Territory shall monitor the collection of samples, their analysis and compliance with standards regarding groundwater, ambient air and leachate quality, and from time to time require the District Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district or municipal authority to take steps as may be necessary for proper implementation of these rules.

**Central Pollution Control Board to Coordinate with State Boards and Committees.** The Central Pollution Control Board shall coordinate with the State Pollution Control Boards and the Pollution Control Committees in the matters of municipal solid waste disposal and its management and handling.

**Management of Municipal Solid Waste.** Any municipal solid waste generated in a city or a town, shall be managed in accordance with the following compliance criteria and the procedure.

**Collection of Municipal Solid Wastes.** Littering of municipal solid waste shall be prohibited in cities, towns, and urban areas notified by the Government. To prohibit littering, following steps shall be taken:

- (i) Organizing house to house collection of garbage through any of the methods, like containerized collection, community bin collection (central bin), house to house collection, collection at regular pre-informed timings and scheduling by using bell ringing/musical vehicle (without exceeding permissible noise levels).
- (ii) Collection of waste from slums and squatter areas/localities including hotels/restaurants/office complexes and commercial areas shall be devised in consultation with municipal authority.
- (iii) Wastes from slaughterhouses, fruits and vegetable markets, which are biodegradable in nature, shall be managed to make use of such wastes.
- (iv) Bio-medical wastes and industrial wastes shall not be mixed with municipal solid wastes as per rules specified separately for the purpose.
- (v) Collected waste from residential and other areas shall be transferred to community bins or dhalaos by hand driven containerized Carts.
- (vi) Horticultural and construction/demolition wastes/debris shall be separately collected and disposed off following proper norms. Similarly, activities relating to dairies (milking of cows/buffaloes) shall be regulated in accordance with State laws.
- (vii) Waste (garbage, dry leaves) shall not be burnt.
- (viii) Stray animals shall not be allowed to move around waste storage facilities or at any other place in city/town, and shall be managed as per State laws.

Municipal authority shall notify waste collection schedule and the likely method to be adopted for public benefit in a city/town.

**Segregation of Municipal Solid Wastes.** Municipal authority shall organize awareness programs for segregation of wastes and shall encourage recycling/reuse of segregated materials. Municipal authority shall undertake phased programs to ensure that the community is fully involved in waste segregation.

**Storage of Municipal Solid Wastes.** Municipal authorities shall establish and maintain storage facilities in such a manner as not to create unhygienic/insanitary conditions around it. Following criteria shall be taken into account while establishing and maintaining storage facilities:

- (i) Storage facilities shall be created/established by taking into account quantities of waste generation in a given area and the population density. A storage facility shall be so sited such that the user finds it easy to approach.
- (ii) Storage facilities to be set up by Municipal authorities or by any other agency shall be so designed that waste stored is not exposed to open atmosphere and shall be aesthetically acceptable and user-friendly.
- (iii) Storage facilities or bins shall have 'easy to operate' design for handling, transfer and transportation of waste.
- (iv) Manual handling of waste shall be prohibited. If unavoidable due to constraints, manual handling shall be carried out under proper precaution with due care for safety of workers.

**Transportation of Municipal Solid Wastes.** Vehicles used for transportation of wastes shall be covered. Wastes should not be visible to public, nor exposed to open environment. The following criteria shall be met:

- (i) The storage facilities set up by Municipal authorities shall be daily attended for clearing of wastes.
- (ii) Collection and transportation vehicles shall be so designed that multiple handling of wastes, prior to final disposal, is avoided.

**Processing of Municipal Solid Wastes.** Municipal authorities shall adopt suitable technology (or combination of such technologies) to make use of wastes so as to minimize burden on landfill. Following criteria shall be adopted:

- (i) The biodegradable wastes not containing any toxic contaminants, shall be processed by composting, vermicomposting, anaerobic digestion or any other appropriate biological processing for stabilization. It shall be ensured that compost shall be free from contamination due to heavy metals, pesticides or any other contaminants.
- (ii) Waste containing recoverable material shall follow the route of recycling.

**Disposal of Municipal Solid Wastes.** Landfilling shall be restricted to non-biodegradable, inert waste and other waste that are not suitable either for recycling or for biological processing. Landfilling shall also be carried out for residues of waste processing facilities as well as for pre-processing rejects from waste processing facilities. Landfilling of mixed waste shall be avoided unless it is found unsuitable for waste processing. Under unavoidable circumstances or till installation of alternate facilities, landfilling shall be done following proper norms. Landfilling shall meet the following criteria:

- (i) Landfill siting and construction shall be done after proper care. However, in respect of cities having population over five lacs, proper environmental impact assessment shall be conducted by Municipal authority before selecting a site.
- (ii) Provision for future landfill sites shall be included in the land use plan of city/town.

- (iii) Landfill site shall comply with the norms for control of air and water (ground and surface water) pollution and other environmental norms as laid down in the specifications/standards.
- (iv) Waste at disposal site shall not be burnt. Sites where waste is to be burnt shall be monitored for compliance.

**Annual Reports.** The State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of Union Territories shall prepare and submit to the Central Pollution Control Board an Annual Review Report with regard to the implementation of these rules every year on or before 30th June. The Central Pollution Control Board shall prepare the consolidated annual review report on management of municipal solid wastes and forward it to the Central Government along with its recommendations before 15th September every year.

**Accident Reporting.** When any accident occurs at any municipal solid wastes collection, segregation, storage, processing treatment and disposal facility or landfill site or during transportation of such wastes, the Municipal authority shall forthwith report the accident to the District Magistrate or the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District.