

What are the conditions that regulate the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags, plastic sheets or like or covers made of plastic sheet and multilayered packaging?

Rule 4 of the Plastic Waste Management Rules prescribes conditions for the manufacture, importer stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags, plastic sheets or like, or cover made of plastic sheet and multi-layered packaging.

This rule is not applicable on export-oriented units or units in special economic zones notified by the Central Government which are manufacturing their products against an order for export. The exemption is however not applicable to units engaged in the packaging of gutkha, tobacco and pan masala and also to any surplus or rejects, left over products and the like.

Rule 4 of the Plastic Waste Management rules provide that carry bags and plastic packaging shall be in natural shade without any added pigments or made using only those pigments which conform to IS9833:1981.

The rule also prescribes that carry bags or products made of recycled plastics shall not be used for carrying, dispensing or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff. Carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastic shall not be less than 120 microns in thickness w.e.f. 31-12-2022. Plastic sheets shall not be less than 50 microns in thickness except as specified by the Central Government, where, the thickness of such plastic sheets impair the functionality of the products.

The provisions of thickness would not apply to carry bags made of compostable plastics and biodegradable plastics. Carry bags and commodities made from compostable plastics shall conform to IS: 17088:2021. The manufacturers and sellers of compostable or biodegradable plastic carry bags or commodities or both shall obtain a certificate from the CPCB before marketing or selling. It has also been provided that non-woven plastic carry bags shall not be less than 60 gm./sq. mts. (G.S.M.)

An amendment in Rule 4 has also prohibited the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of specified single use plastics but the prohibition will not apply to commodities made of compostable and biodegradable plastics.

It has also been provided that any further notification prohibiting the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags, plastic sheets or like or cover made of plastic sheets and multilayered packaging and single use plastic including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene commodities issued after the amendment notification of 2021 will come into force only after the expiry of 10 years from the date of its publication.

It is now also provided that the manufacturer shall not sell or provide or arrange plastic to be used as a raw material to a producer or a seller not registered under the Plastic Waste Management Rules.

The amendment of March 2024 provides that the manufacture of carry bags and commodities from compostable plastic and biodegradable plastic shall be subject to mandatory marking and labelling as may be prescribed under these rules and the FSSAI. The manufactures will have to obtain a certificate from the Central Pollution Control Board before marketing or selling. The manufacturers of compostable plastics or biodegradable plastic carry bags or commodities shall report the quantity of such commodities introduced in the market.

Summary

- i. Plastic carry bags and plastic packaging to be in natural shade without any added pigments or using only pigments conforming to IS 9833:1981.

- ii. Carry bags or products made of recycled plastics shall not be used for carrying, dispensing or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff.
- iii. Carry bags made of virgin or recycled plastics shall not be less than 120 microns. Not applicable to carry bags made of compostable or biodegradable plastics. Manufacturers and sellers to obtain certificate from CPCB before selling or manufacture.
- iv. Plastic sheets shall not be less than 50 microns or as specified by the Central Government.
- v. Non-woven plastic carry bags shall not be less than 60 GSM.
- vi. The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of single use plastic as specified is prohibited. Prohibition not to apply to commodities made of compostable plastics and biodegradable plastics. Any further notification to come into force 10 years after notification.
- vii. Manufacturer not to sell plastic as a raw material to a producer or seller who is not registered under these rules.
- viii. The manufacture of carry bags and commodities from plastics and biodegradable plastics to be as prescribed under these rules or FSSAI.
- ix. Manufacturer will have to obtain a certificate from the CPCB before marketing or selling.
- x. The manufacturer of compostable plastics or biodegradable plastics carry bags or commodities shall report the quantity of such commodities introduced in the market.