

**E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022**

Electronic and electrical equipment (EEE) and all of its parts thereof that have been thrown out as waste by their owner without the intention of being reused are referred to as "e-waste." India, behind China and the United States, is the world's third-largest producer of electronic waste (Global E-waste Monitor 2020).

- The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 were published by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 2 November 2022, which will be effective from 1 April 2023.
- They will apply to all businesses and individuals involved in manufacturing, sales, transfer, purchase, refurbishing, dismantling, recycling and processing of e-waste or electrical and electronic equipment.
- Under the new rules, the number of items that have been categorized as e-waste has increased from 21 to 106.
- E-waste includes all electrical devices and radiotherapy equipment, nuclear medicine equipment and accessories, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) devices, electric toys, air conditioners, microwave equipment, tablets, i-pad, washing machines, refrigerators, and others.
- This includes electronic components, consumables, parts and spares that make the electronic products operational.
- Targets fixed: Producers of electronic goods have to ensure at least 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled till FY 2024-25 with targets to increase them to 70% till FY 2026-27 and 80% till FY 2028-29.
- Every manufacturer, producer, refurbisher and recycler shall be required to file periodical returns and upload the relevant data regarding the recycled e-waste on the designated portal, developed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Extended Producer Responsibility Certificates (similar to carbon credit mechanism) will allow the offsetting of e-waste responsibility to a third party.
- The new rules shall not apply to:
  1. waste batteries, which are covered under the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.
  2. packaging plastics, which are covered under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
  3. micro-enterprises and radio-active wastes, which are covered under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 and Atomic Energy Act, 1962 respectively.

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- Under the rules, the CPCB will conduct random sampling of electrical and electronic equipment placed in the market to monitor and verify compliance of reduced use of hazardous substances.
- Only new electrical and electronic equipment that complies with governmental requirements may be imported or sold. The manufacturer is required to remove all samples from the market if the product does not adhere to the rules.
- The manufacturer must gather any electronic waste produced during the manufacturing process and see to it that it is recycled or disposed of in accordance with the law.
- It is required for the organisation to abide by the Extended Producer Responsibility of recycling e-waste under the E-Waste Management Rules of 2016. To comply with that, majority of businesses may avail of the services of Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO) to handle their recycling. CPCB has 74 registered PROs.

**Weblink** <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/239987.pdf>

**Therefore**

The new e-waste management rules make the manufacturers and others more responsible on the reporting front. Online updating of the information (like quarterly and annual returns) will portray a near-real-time picture of the e-waste managed periodically.

In recent years, it is evident that 'sustainability' acquires the centre stage in all government initiatives. India is taking remarkable efforts in promoting a clean environment, increasing sustainability by way of reforms in the environmental and climate regulations like zero-fossil fuel policy, battery swapping policy, and investing in sunrise opportunities, including the above-said rules on e-waste management. To rightly quote our honourable prime minister, what is needed today is mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption.