

## Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022

To ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ('Ministry') has published the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 ('the Rules'). They will replace the Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.

### Key highlights of the Rules

- 1. Applicability:** The Rules apply to a producer, dealer, consumer, and entities involved in the collection, segregation, transportation, refurbishment and recycling of waste batteries.
- 2. Coverage:** The Rules cover all types of batteries, including electric vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries, and industrial batteries. However, they shall not apply to batteries used in
  - equipment connected with the protection of essential security interests including arms, ammunition, war material and those intended specifically for military purposes.
  - equipment designed to be sent into space.
- 3. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**
  - The Rules function on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility ('EPR'), which states that battery producers (including importers) are responsible for the collection, recycling, and refurbishment of used batteries and the use of recovered materials from wastes in the manufacture of new batteries.
  - EPR is the responsibility of any producer of batteries for environmentally sound management of waste batteries. EPR mandates that all waste batteries be collected and sent for recycling/refurbishment, and it prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration/burning
  - To meet their EPR obligations, producers may engage themselves or authorise any other entity for the collection, recycling, or refurbishment of used batteries.
  - The producer shall ensure a minimum stipulated percentage of recycled materials in the production of new batteries. Year on year, this percentage is increased to ensure that atleast 20% of the recycled material is used in portable and EV batteries by the year 2030-31. The percentage of recycled material in industrial and automotive batteries is set at 40% by the year 2027-28.
- 4. Ease of compliance:** Online registration and reporting, inspection and setting up of the committee for monitoring the implementation of Rules and to take measures required for removal of difficulties will ensure effective implementation and compliance.
- 5. Other points:**
  - As per the 'Polluter Pays Principle,' environmental compensation will be imposed for non-fulfilment of EPR targets, responsibilities and obligations set out in the Rules.
  - The funds collected under environmental compensation will be utilised in collection and refurbishing or recycling of uncollected and non-recycled waste batteries.

**Weblink** <https://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2022/238351.pdf>

## Therefore

The Rules have brought in ease of compliance by shifting towards an online reporting mechanism, including the availability of EPR certificates. Making mandatory the minimum percentage of recovery of materials from waste batteries will bring new technologies and investments in the recycling and refurbishment industry and also create new business opportunities. Further emphasising the use of a minimum percentage of recycled materials in the making of new batteries will reduce the dependency on new raw materials and save the natural resources of the country.