

Who are plastic waste processors and what is their role under the plastic waste management rules of 2016 as amended?

Plastic Waste Processors as defined in the rules, means recyclers and entities engaged in using Plastic waste for Energy (waste to energy including coprocessing), and converting it into oil (waste to oil) or for industrial composting. No other plastic processing would appear to enable an entity to qualify as a plastic waste processor.

Para 11 of the Plastic waste management rules as amended in February 2022 (GSR 133 E) provides for the role of plastic waste processors, which would include Recyclers or other waste processors including industrial composting facilities. This has created an element of doubt as to whether the proviso will apply to only plastic waste processors as defined in the rules or also include ‘Recyclers and all other waste Processors.’ This may need clarification from the regulatory authorities. However, it has been provided that all plastic waste processors shall have to:

- I. Register with the concerned State Pollution Control Board or Committees on the Portal developed by the Central Pollution Control Board as per prescribed procedures laid down by the CPCB.
- II. Submit annual returns by the 30th of April of the next financial year on quantity of plastic waste processed category wise on the CPCB portal.
- III. Make available on annual basis, the total quantity of plastic waste processed and attributable to the PIBO’s on the CPCB portal and on the processor’s web sites.
- IV. False information would lead to the processor being debarred.
- V. Only registered plastic waste processors shall provide certificates for plastic waste processing except in the case of use of plastics for road construction where the PIBO’s will provide a self-declaration certificate in a proforma as developed by the CPCB. The certificates provided only by registered plastic waste processors shall be considered for fulfilment of EPR responsibilities by PIBO’s.
- VI. The amount of plastic packaging waste recycled by an enterprise shall not be more than the installed capacity of the enterprise. The certificate would be category wise and shall include GST data of the Enterprise.
- VII. Certificates to be provided by registered plastic waste processors shall be in the name of registered PIBO’s or local authorities as per modalities developed on the Central Portal of the CPCB.
- VIII. The plastic waste processors, undertaking end of life disposal viz waste to energy, waste to oil, cement kilns shall provide information on annual basis on the CPCB portal and shall insure the disposal of plastic wastes as per relevant rules.