

**Webinar on 'Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) –
Legal Obligations, Current Scenario and Way Forward'
organized by AIPMA on 15th October 2020**

Sponsored by:

Sampurn(e)arth Environment Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Supporting Associations:

- Maharashtra Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA)
- Vidarbha Plastic Industries Association, Nagpur
- Jalgaon Plastic Reprocessors Association
- Indian Plastipack Forum, Indore

The webinar began with a Welcome address by **Mr. Chandrakant Turakhia – President, AIPMA**. He addressed the growing problem of waste and a need to deeply understand 'Extended Producers Responsibility' – Legal obligations and current scenario; he appreciated the government efforts of providing Uniform Framework on EPR. He added that the webinar will provide an insights and significant knowledge on the subject. Further, he welcomed the eminent and experienced speakers and all the associations and organization heads.

Mr. Arvind Mehta, Chairman – Governing Council, AIPMA gave an Introductory Remarks in which he gave a brief about Extended Producers Responsibility and Plastic waste Management (PWM) Rules. He added that during the session the experts will provide deep insights, significant knowledge and guidance to the industry on EPR and its legal obligation. He welcomed the entire panellist and thanked everyone for sparing their precious time for the valuable session.

Moderator - Mr. Akshat Ladha – Vice president, West, AIPMA introduced all the speakers.

Mr. Hiten Bheda, Chairman, Environment Committee, AIPMA gave an overview of EPR and PWM, discussed about the current scenario and emphasized on Compliance to PWM 2016. He elucidated on historical events, PWM 2016 as part of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, India's stand on Single Use Plastic (SUP) on World Environment day 2018, notifications by various state Governments and role of NGT. He addressed the problems faced by the industry and provided his viewpoints. He emphasized on Uniform framework on EPR and the recommendations given by AIPMA to the government.

Dr. D.D.Kale, Consultant, Former Professor, University Department of Chemical Technology (UDCT) gave an illuminating presentation on 'Present status of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR)'. He gave a brief introduction on EPR and PWM Rules,

elucidated on some important definitions related to EPR. He delineated on Global scenario on EPR, EPR in India focussing on three models: Fee based model, PRO based model and Plastic Credit Model, Plastic credit model. Further, he provided his valued comments and way forward and emphasized that, *'a concentrated effort has to be put in involving major stake holders to define a model and start implementing, loopholes may be discovered and improvements can always be incorporated but beginning has to be made as early as possible'*.

Mr. Debartha Banerjee, Co-founder and Director, Sampurn(e)arth Environment Solutions Pvt. Ltd. gave a brief introduction of his company and highlighted the achievements, explained the project model and EPR strategy briefly which makes EPR easier for the clients. He also presented his views and comments on current scenario and EPR obligations.

Mr. Ravi Jasnani, President, Maharashtra Plastics Manufacturers Association

Mr. Jasnani began by sharing his association member experiences that they have been facing in regards to EPR. He provided the ground reality of what is actually happening. He informed that the members have many questions in mind such as how much EPR should they do? What percentage? etc... He believed that EPR is necessary to do and their association is following it but he highlighted that there is lack of clarity amongst the members on the EPR guidelines. He appreciated the webinar as it helped to have a discussion on one platform which provided some clarity on the subject.

Dr. Prashant Agarwal, Hon. Secretary, Vidarbha Plastic Industries Association, Nagpur

Started by recommending that when EPR is announced and asked to be followed in somewhat smaller regions, incentives or payback schemes should be provided by the government where the industry has a support to be started in rural or backwards areas. He concluded by saying that their association is always in support of AIPMA and all the people who are working for the betterment of the plastic industry.

Mr Sachin Bansal, President, Indian Plastipack Forum, Indore

He began by sharing the current scenario of Madhya Pradesh. He suggested that the EPR system should be a centralised throughout the country so that everyone is aware of what has to be done and how EPR has to be followed as their biggest concern are the small MSME's. Mr. Bansal expressed that they want to request the government to exempt MSME's from EPR. He concluded by saying that there should be a centralised system of what and how it has to be done.

Mr Vijay Kumar, President, Karnataka State Plastic Association

Mr Kumar highlighted the reality in the state of Karnataka. He began by explaining that the EPR form is mandatory to be filled by all the people who are part of the value chain including retailers and all the other mentioned in the PWM Rules. But the reality is that they have been targeting only the producers and no brand owners have even registered

which is one of the major reasons that the model has not taken off. He also mentioned many other issues faced by their state. At the end he recommended to take the discussions forward and put it in front of the government.

Mr. Anil Reddy, Vice President (South), AIPMA

He highlighted the current situation in the state of Telangana specifying that the officials are still focusing only on Single Use Plastics and not so much on EPR. They believe that the officials have such attitude towards EPR due to the pandemic and hope that the situation will get better soon & hence they will take care of this subject as well. They are positive that the state associations and industry will follow & corporate with the government's guidelines about EPR.

Mr. Shailendra Singh, Founder & CEO, SustainMantra

The webinar was concluded by certain remarks made by Mr. Shailendra Singh. He appreciated the knowledge provided by the speakers on all aspects of EPR highlighting the current situation, the lacuna surrounding the subject and Mr. Kale also shared some successful examples of EPR from across the world. He said that the current scenarios presented by various speakers and state associations clearly explains that there are gaps in the laws and the laws are being formulated, there are confusions about basic definitions, but also the implementation not being standardised across the states as it is evident from the discussions with various state associations. This indicates that there is lope in the clarity as well as implementation of the law from the producers as well as the authorities end & there is greyness about what has and how it has to be done. AIPMA is really taking an initiative of putting the point of view of the industry in a more certain & assertive way in front of the ministries. He suggested that industry must not only focus on waste management but also on sustainability overall. He ended his talk by informing about the Circular Economy- Introductory Course that AIPMA is planning on the 28th October 2020 which is based on a similar concept and would help the industry to flourish upon the sustainable development goals.

The floor was then left open for Q/A round to provide the participant a direct opportunity to interact and clear their doubts with the experts.

The eminent and experienced speakers gave enlightening presentations, fruitful discussions took place and **over 450 participants attended the webinar.**
