



**POWERING PROGRESS THROUGH PLASTICS**



# WHITE PAPER ON PWM RULES 2021

by

**THE ALL INDIA PLASTICS  
MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION  
(AIPMA)**

along with

**National / State Plastic Associations**

**Supported by:**



## About AIPMA

- The All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) is a 75 years old National level Industry Association, largest apex body representing Plastic Industry in India, which dedicatedly works for the development of the plastic Industry. It represents more than 22000 units directly and through affiliated associations. AIPMA is located in Mumbai with its offices in Delhi NCR, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Kolkata. ([www.aipma.net](http://www.aipma.net))
- AIPMA recognizes the responsibility towards Environment, committed to the cause to reduce plastic pollution and are aligned with the government on this issue.
- AIPMA is committed to work for the betterment of plastic industry by ensuring that government environmental policies for plastic production and waste management are aligned to facilitate ease of functioning and long term growth for the industry.
- AIPMA is active and alert towards environment issues. AIPMA encourages the environmental initiative and always support them ethically for the benefit of the industry, environment and society.



## Preface

- **With the notification of PWM 2021 amendments, the industry is already seeing a lot of confusion on its applicability & implementation.** Implementing authorities like SPCB officers are unclear & this has led to unnecessary stress & is negatively impacting the smooth working of the plastics value chain stakeholders.
- **Many state government bodies are issuing their own interpretation of the PWM amendments that is further leading to confusion & uncertainty.**
- **AIPMA has been on the forefront of presenting the industry's point of view to various government bodies** and actively responding to situations where there is gross misinterpretation by government bodies. AIPMA has always taken a balanced view and its feedback has been done after taking into account as many stakeholders' point of view into keen consideration.
- **The need for a white paper be made from AIPMA and this was also widely supported by Regional – State Plastic Associations and accordingly this white paper was commissioned.**
- **It would be pertinent to note that the plastic industry is aligned with the GOI vision of Swachh Bharat and willing to play its role as a responsible industry sector of this country.** The plastic industry is proud to the contributions it has made over the years to the GDP of the country & it will continue to be a contributor to the target of achieving the USD 5 Trillion goal as envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister
- **AIPMA is a proponent of a “One Nation One Rule” and this should be applicable to Plastic Waste Management.**

## Key Objectives of this White Paper

There are broadly 5 objectives that this white paper will address & these are outlined as below:

- This will **Form a basis of explanation & interpretation of the PWM amendments primarily for the benefit of Producers**
- Present a **“common” front to various state level government bodies and central institutions** as well. This white paper will be sent to all relevant bodies like MoEFCC, CPCB, DPCC, various state level PCB's etc...
- This document is **intended to be simple to understand** and explain & aims to clarify the most important & relevant points of PWM 2021 to the Producers.
- This white paper will **be based on “actual” situation on the ground and use practical and relevant examples** to highlight and explain points.
- It is intended that this white paper **will make the “life” of the producer simpler & easy** as it pertains to discharging its obligations under PWM 2021.

The objectives of this white paper is **ONLY** as stated above & **those alone**.

## Structure of the White Paper

**What does this document cover?**

- Key modifications in PWM 2021, as compared to PWM 2016 (amended 2018).
- Interpretations of the changes and what this means, in simple language assisted with pictures
- Key points as relevant to the plastic industry & insights on same.

**How should you read this document?**

- The sub-Rule Number as per PWM 2021 is mentioned at the top left hand side, for each significant issue, with a short extract from the rule.
- Interpretations of the key changes are mentioned on the right hand side of the “Issue” page.
- Illustrations are provided to explain points & to provide further clarity



# Indian Plastic Industry- Things to remember

## Brief overview

- India consumes 17 million tons of virgin polymers per year.
- India consumes 13 kg plastic per head per year against more than 100 kg in USA
- 50,000 processors creating 4 million jobs contribute 5 Lakh Crore to GDP, over 75,000 Cr to GST
- The plastic industry is on the forefront of contributing to the marquee projects of the Government of India like Swachh Bharat, Make In India, 5 Tr Economy
- India recycles 60% plastic thanks to the informal rag pickers , whereas developed countries are still recycling less than 35%
- Plastic has least carbon footprint compared to alternatives & help fight global warming & climate change
- Plastic Serves , Littering Pollutes
- Waste segregation at source & proper waste management can help save environment



## PWM 2021 Amendment

### Issue : Increase in thickness of “Carry Bag”

#### PWM 2021 notification details

**Definition: Rule 3:** “Carry bags” mean bags made from plastic material or compostable plastic material, used for the purpose of **carrying or dispensing commodities which have a self-carrying feature but do not include bags that constitute or form an integral part of the packaging in which goods are sealed prior to use;**

#### Condition: Rule 4 - I

- a) Carry bags and plastic packaging shall either be in natural shade which is without any added pigments or made using only those pigments and colorants which are in conformity with Indian Standard: IS9833:1981 titled as “List of pigments and colorants for use in plastics in contact with foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and drinking water”, as amended from time to time;
- b) Carry bags made of recycled plastic or products made of recycled plastic can be used for storing, carrying, dispensing, or packaging ready to eat or drink food stuff subject to the notification of appropriate standards and regulation under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India;”. (amendment issued on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

c) Carry bag made of virgin or recycled plastic, shall not be less than seventy five microns in thickness with effect from the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 and one hundred and twenty (120) microns in thickness with effect from the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022”

## AIPMA Interpretation:

- Increase in thickness to 75 microns effective from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021
- Increase in thickness to 120 microns effective from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Is applicable **only to carry bags** as mentioned in “definitions & conditions” of PWM 2021.

- Definition & condition in PWM 2021 have to be read together & they mention Carry Bag only! **Not “shopping bag” packaging bag”, etc....**
- Please **do not mix your own definition with PWM...** apply the definition as in PWM to your situation.
- Carry bag definition is clear & graphic attached *below for abundant clarity.*
- **The definition of carry bags has not changed in PWM 2021. It is same as in PWM 2016**



Self carrying feature

## FAQ relating to “Carry Bag” thickness (I)

**Question :** I make plastic sheets and supply to a carry Bag manufacturer am I to make thicker film?

**Answer :** YES, 75 microns effective September 21 and 120 microns effective 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

**Question :** I make plastic sheet & supply to wholesale market , I don’t know what it is used for?

**Answer :** You will need to be able to provide data on how many customers that you supply to are Carry Bag manufacturers and how many are making other products from your plastic sheet.

**Question :** What is “integral packaging”?

**Answer :** This word “**integral packaging**” per se does not appear anywhere in the PWM 2016/2018-ammendment and in PWM 2021 notification. This word however has been used in a court order & means that packaging material in which the product is packed (in intimate contact with the packaged good and the package in which the product is sold.

**Question :** Is MLP exempt from thickness requirement?

**Answer :** There is no change in PWM 2021 for this product, hence status quo remains.



Packaging which is an integral part of the product sold



## FAQ relating to “Carry Bag” thickness(2)

**Question :** I make plates that are as shown in the picture (paper + foil) , does the thickness of the metallised film have to be a minimum of 50 microns?

**Answer :** There is no change in PWM 2021 for this product, hence status quo remains.

**Question :** I make plates that are as shown in the picture (paper + plastic sheet) , does the thickness of the plastic sheet need to be a minimum of 50 microns?

**Answer :** There is no change in the PWM 2021 for this product, hence status quo remains.



## FAQ relating to “Carry Bag” thickness(3)

**Question :** PVC Lamination film used by the printing industry for paper or paper board & duplex board to give extra life & gloss. The thickness of this film is 8-10 microns? Will this thickness also need to be increased to a minimum of 50 microns?

**Answer :** There is no change in the PWM 2021 for this product, hence status quo remains

**Question :** I make BOPP tapes. What should be the thickness of the tape?

**Answer :** There is no change in the PWM 2021 for this product, hence status quo remains.

**Question :** I make cling films, shrink films. What should be the thickness of this film?

**Answer :** There is no change in the PWM 2021 for this product, hence status quo remains

## PWM 2021 Amendment

### Issue : Banning of “Single Use Plastic” Items

#### Addition of Rule 4(2) – Condition

The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale & use of single- use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities prohibited from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

- Ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration.
- plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping/packing films around sweet boxes; invitation cards; & cigarette packets, plastic/PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers

#### Addition of Rule 4(3) – Condition

The above provision 4(2)(b) shall not apply to commodities (including carry bags) made of compostable plastic material.

## Addition of Rule 4(4)

Any notification prohibiting the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of carry bags, plastic sheets or like, or cover made of plastic sheets and multi-layered packaging and single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities, issued after this notification, shall come into force after the expiry of ten years, from the date of its publication



### FAQ's:

**Question :** I make these food containers, as shown in the picture, are these banned?

**Answer :** This is not a cup, plate, cutlery, tray or wrapping, so this is not banned!

## Banned SUP's- Effective 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022



Ear-Bud with Plastic stick



Balloon with Plastic stick



Plastic Flags



Candy with Plastic stick



Thermocol for decoration



Ice-Cream with Plastic stick



Plastic Plates



Plastic Cups/Glasses



Plastic Cutlery



Plastic Straws



Plastic Tray



Sweet box with plastic film



Plastic Banners



Invitation Cards



Cigarette pack-plastic film

## FAQ's relating to Banned "Single Use Plastic" Items

**Question :** I make these products are they banned?

- PP thin wall injection molded containers for food packaging.
- Polystyrene disposable spoons and forks.
- Containers as shown in picture on previous page, with wall thicknesses of 300 micron & above.

**Answer :** a) NO b) yes c) No

**Question :** I make these banned SUP from compostable plastics. Is this allowed?

**Answer :** Yes it is allowed, because the PWM 2021 rules do not apply to compostable plastics. However the compostable plastic used should be certified by CPCB as per their laid down specifications. Please refer PWM 2021 & PWM 2016 annexure for approval process by CPCB.

## PWM 2021 Amendment

### Issue : Registration With SPCB/CPCB

#### Insertion in Rule 13(I) - Registration of producer, recyclers and manufacturer

No Person Shall Manufacture Carry Bags Or Recycle Plastic Bags Or Multi-layered Packaging Unless The Person Has Obtained :

- **A Registration From The State Pollution Control Board Or The Pollution Control Committee Of The Union Territory Or The Central Pollution Control Board Concerned, As The Case May Be, Prior To The Commencement Of Production.**

#### FAQ's:

**Question :** Do I really need to register with SPCB/CPCB?

**Answer :** Yes. If you are a producer or a brand owner and are operating in more than 2 states you will need to register with CPCB. Otherwise you need to register with your State PCB.

## PWM 2021 Amendment

### Issue : Marking & Labelling Requirements

#### Insertion in Rule 9(I)-Responsibility of producers, Importers and Brand Owners

The producers, within a period of six months from the date of publication of these rules, shall work out modalities for waste collection system as per guidelines issued from time to time under these Rules;

#### Insertion in Rule 11-Marking or labelling

Each Plastic Carry Bag, Plastic Packaging & Multi-layered Packaging Shall Have The Following Information Printed In English Namely:

- a) Name, Registration Number Of The Manufacturer, Producer/ Brand-owner And Thickness In Case Of Carry Bag, Plastic Packaging Used By the Brand Owner.
- b) Name And Registration Number Of The Manufacturer In Case Of Multi-layered Packaging (Excluding Multi-layered Packaging Used For Imported Goods);
- c) Name And Certificate Number Of Producers [Rule 4(h)] In Case Of Carry Bags Made From Compostable Plastic

#### FAQ's:

**Question :** I make plastic films , what are my obligations regarding marking & labelling?

**Answer :** Your name of the organisation, Registration number with SPCB or CPCB & thickness of the film would need to be printed on this film by you.





## Tips on how to Read & Understand PWM 2021

Rule Nos. in PWM	Title of the rule	What does this cover	Important tips
1	Short title of the document	Title of the document ( for example PWM 2021)	Self explanatory
2	Application	To who all does this rule apply and to who all this does not apply	Important to read this and understand
3	Definitions	Defines key words that used in the document, (example: carry bags, plastic, plastic sheet, etc.....)	<b>It is important that rule 3 &amp; rule 4 should be read together. Please focus on definitions as used in PWM. Refrain from using your own definitions.</b>
4	Conditions	What are the requirements of the rules and what the condition is	
5	Plastic Waste Management	This outlines some key points relating to Plastic waste management	Some expectations on PWM are mentioned
6,7,8,9	Roles & Responsibilities	This outlines some key points relating to Plastic waste management	Read this to understand what are the roles & responsibilities of the various stakeholders
10	Protocol for compostable plastic materials	Rules for compostable plastics	Relates specifically to compostable plastics
11	Marking or labelling	Rule relating to marking & labelling	New rules relating to marking & labelling
12	Prescribed authority	Who is the authority for checking & implementation	Self explanatory
13	Registration of producer, recyclers & manufacturer	Process of registration with CPCB/SPCB	Read this & related Annexures at the end of PWM notification.
14	Responsibilities of retailers & street vendors	What role does the retailer & street vendor play and what are their obligations	Details the responsibilities of a retailer & street vendors .
16	State Level Monitoring Committees	Monitoring of PWM at state levels - who are these?	Read to understand in your state who will be monitoring the implementation.
17	Annual Reports	Reporting obligations of various stakeholders	Reporting requirements from SPCB/ CPCB etc..

## Tips on how to Read & Understand PWM 2021

- **Note that PWM 2016 notification has a total of 17 sub-rules**
- **Only 10 sub-rules out of the 17 rules in PWM 2016 namely Rule 1, 2,3,4,5,6,7,9,11 &12 were changed in 2021.**
- **Major changes that have been included in 2021 as compared to PWM 2016 are :**
  - Definition & Inclusion of Single Use Plastics.
  - Banning of specific SUP products
  - Change in thickness requirement of carry bags
- **Towards the end of this white paper there is a list of all the changes that were made in 2021 to PWM 2016 notification.**

# How to make a self assessment on thickness /SUP requirement for your product under PWM 2021

Ques. Nos.	Question you should ask yourself	Answer: Yes	Answer: No
1	Are you a producer of plastic film?	Go to question 2	Go to question No: 5
2	Which product do you make?	Describe the product (Plastic film, what thickness, what is the end application of the film). Go to question No:3	
3	Is the film going to carry bag manufacturer	Yes : then your film thickness needs to be increased to 75 microns effective 30/9/21 & to 120 microns effective 31-12-2022	Go to question No: 4
4	Is the film going for packaging application?	There is no change and status quo remains	
5	Are you a rigid packaging maker?	Go to Question No: 6	Define which product you make & write to CPCB for clarification* (AIPMA can support your query)
5	Which product do you make?	Describe the product Go to question No: 7	
5	Are these products included in SUP list in PWM 2021?	Your products will be prohibited from 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022. (refer list in PWM 2021)	No: define which product you make & write to CPCB for clarification* (AIPMA can support your query).

## Other Key Changes in Key PWM 2021 Rules

PWM 2021 Rule Nos.	PWM 2021 Key change Description	AIPMA Comments
Rule 3 - Definitions	<p>1. After clause (n), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :- (na) <b>“Non-woven plastic bag”</b> means Non-woven plastic bag made up of plastic sheet or web structured fabric of entangled plastic fibers or filaments (and by perforating films) bonded together by mechanical or thermal or chemical means, and the “non-woven fabric” means a flat or tufted porous sheet that is made directly from plastic fibers, molten plastic or plastic films;</p> <p>2. After clause (q), the following clause shall be inserted, namely: - (qa) <b>“Plastic waste processing”</b> means any process by which plastic waste is handled for the purpose of reuse, recycling, co-processing or transformation into new products;</p> <p>3. After clause (v), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely: (va) <b>“Single-use plastic commodity”</b> mean a plastic item intended to be used once for the same purpose before being disposed of or recycled; (vb) <b>“Thermoset plastic”</b> means a plastic which becomes irreversibly rigid when heated and hence cannot be remolded into desired shape; (vc) <b>“Thermoplastic”</b> means a plastic which softens on heating and can be molded into desired shape;.</p>	<p>Some “definitions” have been further clarified.</p> <p>Some new definitions have been included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic Waste Processing</li> <li>• Single Use Plastic commodity</li> </ul>



PWM 2021 Rule Nos.	PWM 2021 Key change Description	AIPMA Comments
Rule 4 - Definitions	<p>In sub-rule (1), –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. for the words “importer stocking”, the words “import, stocking” shall be substituted;</li> <li>ii. in clause (c), for the words “fifty microns in thickness” , the words, figures, letters and brackets “seventy five microns in thickness with effect from the 30th September, 2021 and one hundred and twenty (120) microns in thickness with effect from the 31st December, 2022” shall be substituted;</li> <li>iii. in clause (h), after the words, “carry bags”, the words “and commodities” shall be inserted;</li> <li>iv. in clause (h), after the words, “compostable plastic carry bags”, the words “or commodities or both” shall be inserted;</li> <li>v. after clause (i), following clause shall be inserted, namely: - ( j) non-woven plastic carry bag shall not be less than 60 Gram Per Square Meter (GSM) with effect from the 30th September, 2021.”;</li> <li>vi. after sub-rule (1), the following sub-ules shall be inserted, namely:-</li> </ol> <p>2. The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of following single use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, commodities shall be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration;</li> <li>b. plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.</li> </ol> <p>3. The provisions of sub-rule (2) (b) shall not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic.</p> <p>4. Any 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 this notification, shall come into force after the expiry of ten years, from the date of its publication”</p>	<p>These have been covered in the previous slides in detail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note provision of thickness also for non-woven plastic carry bag.</li> <li>• Products made from compostable plastics (as certified by CPCB) are exempt from thickness increase.</li> <li>• Any new provisions/ notifications etc.. after PWM 2021 , can only be implemented after 10 years of its publication date.</li> </ul>
Rule No: 5,6,7,9	<p>In Rule 5, in sub-rule (1), in clause (d), for the figures “2000”, the figures “2016” shall be substituted.</p> <p>In the Rule 6, in sub-rule (2), after clause (a), following clause shall be inserted, namely: - “(aa) ensuring that the provisions of these rules, as amended, are adhered to;”.</p> <p>In the Rule e 7, in sub-rule (1), after clause (a), following clause shall be inserted, namely: - (aa) ensuring that the provisions of these rules, as amended, are adhered to;”.</p> <p>In the Rule 9, in sub-rule (1), after the words, “local body concerned”, the words “as per guidelines issued under these rules from time to time” shall be inserted.</p>	<p>Making some provisions , in the <u>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</u> a bit clearer.</p>
Rule No: 11	<p>In rule 11, sub-rule (1), –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. after the words “plastic carry bag”, the words, “plastic packaging” shall be inserted;</li> <li>ii. (in clause (a), after the word “manufacturer”, the words “producer or brand owner” shall be inserted, and after the words “carry bag”, the words “and plastic packaging used by the brand owner” shall be inserted;</li> <li>iii. in clause (b), after the words “multilayered packaging”, the words “excluding multi-layered packaging used for imported goods” shall be inserted;</li> <li>iv. in clause (c), after the words “name and certificate number”, the words “of producer” shall be inserted.</li> </ol>	<p>This relates to “ <u>Marking &amp; Labelling requirements</u>.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements expanded to apply to packaging and also to producers/ brand owners.</li> <li>• Cary bag producers also need to mark and label their products.</li> <li>• MLP from imports are exempt from marking requirements.</li> </ul>

PWM 2021 Rule Nos.	PWM 2021 Key change Description	AIPMA Comments
Rule No: 12,13	<p>In rule 12, –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. in sub-rule (2), after the words “waste generator,” ,the words “restriction or prohibition on” shall be inserted;</li> <li>ii. (ii) in sub-rule (3), after the words “waste generator,” ,the words “ restriction or prohibition on” shall be inserted.</li> </ul> <p>In rule 13, in sub-rule (1), after the words “Union Territory concerned”, the words “or the Central Pollution Control Board” shall be inserted.</p>	

## Important Web links:

- Central Pollution Control Board Home Page : <https://cpcb.nic.in>
- Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change(MoEFCC home page) : <https://moef.gov.in/en/>
- <https://moef.gov.in/en/government-notifies-the-plastic-waste-management-amendment-rules-2021-prohibiting-identified-single-use-plastic-items-by-2022/>

## Annexure:

1. PWM 2016 amended 2018 Notification.
2. PWM 2021 amendments notification dated 12<sup>th</sup> August
3. Food & Safety Act -2006
4. FSSAI regulations -2018 ( amendment to Food & Safety Act-2006)



In case of further questions.....

**SEND YOUR EMAIL TO:**

**hasrat@aipma.net**