



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



HQ-3/EPA/F.No.23/2026/ 18730-48 Through E-mail Only

Date: 25/08/2026

To

The Environmental Engineer,
Regional Office, Amritsar / Batala/ Bathinda/
Barnala / Faridkot/ Fatehgarh Sahib/ Hoshiarpur/
Jalandhar-I/II/ Ludhiana-I/II/III/IV/ Patiala/
Rupnagar/ Sangrur/ Sri Muktsar Sahib/
SAS Nagar/ Tarn taran.

Subject: Clarification regarding applicability and scope of the notification dated 02.04.2025 w.r.t. use of biodegradable and compostable carry bags, including their permissible thickness in the State of Punjab.

Reference: 1. Head Office letter no. 27678-93 dated 06.11.2024, 30587-605 dated 09.12.2024 and 19351-69 dated 06.06.2025 (along with Notification No. 06/12/2019-4LG4/274 dated 02.04.2025 issued by the Department of Local Government, Punjab).

2. PMIDC Letter No. PMIDC/SWM/2026/E-1147378/6053 dated 12.08.2026

In this regard, it is intimated that earlier, all the Regional Offices were directed vide letter dated 06.11.2024 to not to grant or extend the validity of Consents to Operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for the manufacturing of Compostable/Biodegradable/Non-Biodegradable Plastic Carry Bags and to immediately revoke or amend any such consents already granted/renewed including through the auto-renewal process.

2) Vide letter dated 09.12.2024 above, in view of the concern raised by the Central Pollution Control Board regarding illegal manufacturing and use of compostable/biodegradable plastic carry bags, all Regional Offices were further directed to

- (i) conduct surprise inspections at odd hours to ensure that no industry is illegally manufacturing compostable/biodegradable plastic carry bags and identified SUP items.
- (ii) not grant consent to any industry for manufacturing of compostable/biodegradable plastic carry bags and identified SUP items.

3) Vide letter dated 06.06.2025 above, the Notification No. 06/12/2019-4LG4/274 dated 02.04.2025 issued by the Department of Local Government, Punjab was circulated, prohibiting the manufacture, stocking, distribution, recycling, sale or use of plastic carry bags of thickness less than

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120 microns within the jurisdiction of all Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats in the State of Punjab, except Municipal Corporation SAS Nagar (Mohali) and Municipal Councils Kharar, Dera Bassi, Zirakpur and Ropar, in view of the order dated 20.01.2016 and subsequent orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 442 of 2015.

4) Meanwhile, the Punjab Compostable Association, Amritsar has submitted a representation to the Board requesting permission to manufacture and sell compostable carry bags in the State of Punjab, in accordance with the provisions of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.

5) Accordingly, a clarification has been sought and received from Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company (PMIDC), Department of Local Government, Punjab vide letter dated 12.08.2026 above, on the applicability and scope of the Notification dated 02.04.2025 with respect to biodegradable and compostable carry bags. PMIDC has, after examining the relevant Rules, Notifications and PPCB reports, clarified that the Notification dated 02.04.2025 applies equally to all categories of plastic carry bags, including biodegradable and compostable plastic carry bags and that the minimum thickness norm of 120 microns is applicable uniformly to all plastic carry bags, irrespective of whether they are made of virgin plastic, recycled plastic, biodegradable plastic or compostable plastic.

6) In view of the above, a copy of the above clarification given by PMIDC is being forwarded to all Regional Offices with a request to ensure strict compliance of the following and submit action taken report to Head Office every month in the MPR:

- i) No CTE/CTO under the Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 shall be granted, renewed or extended to any unit manufacturing plastic carry bags of any material including virgin, recycled, biodegradable or compostable plastic having thickness less than 120 microns.
- ii) While considering the CTE/CTO applications, the applicant may ask to submit an undertaking to the effect that the carry bags to be manufactured will have a thickness of more than 120 microns.
- iii) No CTE/CTO shall be granted for manufacturing of prohibited identified SUP items (cups, tumblers, spoons, forks, straws, etc.).
- iv) Any CTE/CTO already granted/renewed including through auto-renewal, to units manufacturing carry bags below 120 microns (of any category) or prohibited SUP items shall be immediately revoked/cancelled.

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- v) Regional Offices shall continue surprise inspections including at odd hours to verify compliance and detect illegal manufacturing of prohibited items.
- 7) This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority of the Board.

Endst. No. 1874951

Through E-mail Only

Gurpreet
25/08/2026
Environmental Engineer (HQ-3/2)
Date: 25/08/2026

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action, please:

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Jalandhar/ Ludhiana/ Patiala/ Bathinda.
2. The Senior Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Zonal Office, Patiala-1/2, Ludhiana-1/2, Jalandhar/Amritsar/Bathinda.
3. The Environmental Engineer, Computer section, PPCB Head Office, Patiala, with the request to upload this letter on the PPCB website for information of all stakeholders/industries.

Gurpreet
25/08/2026
Environmental Engineer (HQ-3/2)