

Salient features of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

MoEFCC has notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 on 27 January 2026 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which shall come into effect from 1 April 2026, in super-session of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, to ensure environmentally sound management of solid waste in the country.

Salient features of SWM Rules, 2026:

1. Applicability of Rules (Additional inclusion):

- Rural local bodies, including all entities within their jurisdictions, entities operated under Public–Private Partnership (PPP) mode, food parks, railway tracks and adjacent land parcels, dry ports, and all public or private landowners (individual or body corporate) are additionally included under the SWM Rules, 2026

2. Mandatory Four-Stream Segregation at Source:

The Solid Wastes Segregation are made compulsory at source into following four streams:

(i) Wet Waste

- Includes kitchen waste, fruit/vegetable peels, meat waste, flowers, etc.
- To be composted or processed through bio-methanation at nearest facilities.

(ii) Dry Waste

- Includes plastic, paper, metal, glass, wood, rubber, etc.
- To be transported to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for sorting and recycling.

(iii) Sanitary Waste

- Includes diapers, sanitary pads, tampons, condoms, etc.
- To be securely wrapped and stored separately before collection.

(iv) Special Care Waste

- Includes paint cans, bulbs, mercury thermometers, medicines, etc.
- To be deposited at designated centres or collected by authorised agencies.

3. Clear Definition and Obligations of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs):

Bulk Waste Generators defined as entities having:

- Floor area $\geq 20,000$ sq. m., or
- Water consumption $\geq 40,000$ litres/day, or
- Solid waste generation ≥ 100 kg/day.

Includes government departments, PSUs, institutions, commercial establishments, residential societies, etc. The key responsibilities of BWGs are as follow:

- i. Mandatory registration with concerned Local Body through centralised online portal.
- ii. Segregated collection and handover of dry, sanitary and special care waste to authorised agencies
- iii. On-site processing of wet / horticulture waste through composting, bio-methanation or approved technology
- iv. New BWGs: Mandatory setup and operation of adequate wet waste processing

facilities

- v. Existing BWGs: Exemption allowed with procurement of Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR) Certificates
- vi. Fulfil EBWGR obligations for environmentally sound management of all waste streams as per CPCB norms
- vii. Procure EBWGR certificates for waste collection, transportation and processing where on-site treatment is not feasible
- viii. No engagement with unregistered or unauthorised entities
- ix. Annual returns to be submitted by 30th June on centralised portal (public disclosure by Local Body)
- x. Hand over residual waste / inert to authorized collectors or Local Body
- xi. Ensure proper waste management during construction activities and public transport operations
- xii. No mixing of biomedical waste with solid waste; comply with BMW Rules, 2016

4. Centralized Online Portal to be developed by CPCB

- i. Establishment and operation of a Centralized Online Portal by CPCB.
- ii. Online registration of entities as mandated under rules and filing of annual returns
- iii. Online tracking of waste generation, collection, transport, processing and disposal.
- iv. Quarterly reporting for biomining and bioremediation of legacy dumpsites.
- v. Mandatory uploading of audit reports of processing facilities and landfills.

5. Environmental Compensation and Enforcement

1. Environmental Compensation to be levied based on the Polluter Pays Principle for Operating without registration, False reporting, Submission of forged documents and Improper waste management practices.
2. EC Guidelines to be prepared by Central Pollution Control Board.
3. EC shall be levied by the respective SPCBs / PCCs.

6. Duties of Local Bodies, Solid Waste Processing Facilities and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)

The Key responsibility of Local body include:

1. Register on centralised online portal
2. Generate EBWGR certificates as per CPCB guidelines
3. Send waste to designated facilities (Wet-Processing, Dry-MRF, Sanitary/Special units)
4. Quarterly and Annual returns; ensure public disclosure
5. Prevent spillage, littering & intermixing till processing
6. Provide trained staff, PPE and GPS-enabled vehicles (mandatory >50k population)
7. Ensure environmentally sound collection, segregation and transport
8. Deliver waste only to registered processing facilities

7. Operator of Solid Waste Processing Facilities

- i. Mandatory registration with Local Body via centralized online portal
- ii. Operate as per prescribed standards (Schedule II & III) — no harm to health or environment
- iii. Submit quarterly and annual returns (Form III) – data to be publicly disclosed
- iv. Handle residual waste and inerts through authorised collectors / landfills
- v. Design and operate facilities as per CPCB and CPHEEO technical guidelines
- vi. Obtain SPCB authorisation for setup and operation of processing units
- vii. Ensure safe, compliant operations with trained manpower

- viii. Register bio-gas / CBG plants on GOBARDHAN portal & avoid unregistered entities

8. Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs):

- i. Mandatory registration with Local Body
- ii. Operate as per CPCB and MoHUA guidelines
- iii. Manage hazardous waste as per HOWM Rules, 2016
- iv. Send sorted waste only to registered recyclers / processors / landfills
- v. Quarterly reporting on online portal (waste received, sorted & sent)
- vi. No dealing with unregistered entities
- vii. Act as collection / drop-off centre for EPR waste & promote 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle)
- viii. Ensure trained personnel for MRF operations

9. Online Submission of Annual Report on implementation of SWM Rules

- i. Mandatory online submission of Annual Reports through a centralised portal at all levels.
- ii. Bulk Waste Generators and waste treatment facility operators to submit annual reports (Form III for operators) by 30th June every year.
- iii. Urban Local Bodies and District-level Panchayati Raj Institutions to submit annual reports to concerned Departments and SPCB/PCC by 30th June.
- iv. SPCBs/PCCs to audit reports, upload them on their website, and submit consolidated report (Form V) to the Central Pollution Control Board by 31st July.

10. Faster Land Allocation and Buffer Zones

- i. Graded criteria for development around waste processing and disposal facilities.
- ii. Mandatory buffer zone within allotted area for facilities exceeding 5 TPD capacity.
- iii. CPCB to issue guidelines on buffer zone size and permissible activities.
- iv. Aimed at expediting land allocation for waste processing facilities.

11. Use of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) by Industries

- i. RDF defined as fuel produced from high-calorific non-recyclable waste.
- ii. Industrial units, including cement and waste-to-energy plants, mandated to use RDF.
- iii. Fuel substitution rate to increase progressively from 5% to 15% over six years.

12. Restrictions on Landfilling

- i. Landfills restricted to inert and non-recyclable, non-energy recoverable waste only.
- ii. Higher landfill fees for unsegregated waste (higher than cost of segregation and processing).
- iii. Annual audits of landfills by SPCBs/PCCs
- iv. Oversight by District Collectors.

13. Legacy Waste Remediation

- Mandatory mapping and assessment of all legacy dumpsites.
- Time-bound biomining and bioremediation.
- Quarterly progress reporting through online portal.

14. Special Provisions for Hilly Areas and Islands

- i. Levy of user fees on tourists.
- ii. Regulation of tourist inflow based on waste management capacity.
- iii. Designated collection points for non-biodegradable waste.

- iv. Decentralised wet waste processing by hotels and restaurants.

15. Time Frame for Implementation

S. No.	Population	Time line
(1)	(2)	(3)
	Urban areas	
1	Million plus cities	18 months from the date of these rules coming into effect
2	5 -10 lakh	24 months from date of these rules coming into effect
3	All urban areas	36 months from date of these rules coming into effect
	Rural areas	
1	With a population of 20,000 and above	18 from date rules coming into effect
2	Between 10,000 - 20,000	24 months from date rules coming into effect
3	Up to 10,000	36 months from date rules coming into effect

16. Review Committees:

At MoEF&CC :

- Central Monitoring Committee: Annually
- Review of implementation of the Rules: Annually

At CPCB:

- Central Implementation Committee: Half-yearly

Review of implementation & submission of recommendations to MoEF&CC

At SPCBs/PCCs:

- Review of implementation of the Rules in the State/UT in coordination with concerned Departments: Half-yearly

District Magistrate / District Collector / Deputy Commissioner:

- Review of performance of local bodies on waste segregation, collection, sorting, processing, treatment and disposal: Quarterly.