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Ref.No.MAIT/PY/2744

May 26, 2023

Ms. Leena Nandan, IAS,
Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Subject: Request for extension of the deadline for uploading sales/procurement invoices on the centralized online EPR portal for plastic waste

Ref:

1. MAIT representation Ref.No.MAIT/PY/2673 dated April 23rd 2023
2. MAIT representation Ref.No.MAIT/PY/2729 dated May 09th 2023
3. Guidance Document for Bulk Upload for PIBO operations on the Centralized EPR Portal for Plastic Packaging by CPCB dated May 2023
4. OM No. F.No.-12/51/2023-HSMD by MoEF&CC dated March 13th 2023

Respected Madam,

Greetings from MAIT!

We are writing to request an **extension on the deadline** for uploading sales/procurement invoices on the centralized online EPR portal for plastic waste. As per Office Memorandum (OM) No. F.No.-12/51/2023-HSMD by MoEF&CC dated March 13th 2023, registered PIBOs were required to update the portal with invoices for every sale and procurement of plastic packaging by May 31st 2023.

On the issue of bulk uploading of the invoices, the MAIT delegation met with Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Addl. Secretary MoEF&CC on April 26th 2023. During the meeting, the disconnect between the data required by CPCB (plastic packaging put on market) could not be ascertained from the evidence (procurement/sales invoices) that was sought from Importers, was highlighted. We would like to thank MoEF&CC for the quick action in setting up a meeting between the ICT industry and CPCB along with MoEF&CC officials Shri Amit Love, Addl Director and Shri Vinod Singh, Addl Director, MoEF&CC. In the meeting held on April 27 2023, CPCB assured the industry that a suitable solution was being developed without revealing any further details.

MAIT would like to apprise you that CPCB has recently released a Guidance document for Bulk Upload for PIBO operations on the Centralized EPR Portal for Plastic Packaging at around close of business hours on **23rd May 2023**, which introduces CPCB-BOT for the upload of the sales/procurement invoices without considering the gaps highlighted by the ICT industry through several representations. The instructions released under the said document are also in complete variance with MoEF&CC OM F.No.-12/51/2023-HSMD, where the PIBOs are supposed to bulk upload the consolidated data of transactions, not the invoices and CPCB/SPCBs/PCCs may, wherever required, verify the transaction details of PIBOs with detailed invoices, as a part of auditing exercise.

ICT Industry has been working very closely with MoEF&CC and CPCB to support the smooth implementation of the PWM Rules which is evident from the several meetings that we have had to not only highlight challenges but also provide workable solutions that do not dilute the spirit of the Rules.

In such a situation, CPCB providing a new option (CPCB-BOT) that does not solve the highlighted challenges (uploading procurement/sales invoices) particularly when there were only 3 business days left to complete the actions, puts the entire ICT industry at risk of non-compliance.

In addition, the ICT industry requests CPCB to provide training or support to the industry on how to use the CPCB-BOT. The CPCB-BOT to upload the data with system specifications is extremely difficult for the industry to comply with in the remaining 3 working days left before the deadline.

ICT Industry is strongly supportive of the Government's commitment to reducing plastic pollution, and MAIT supports this goal as well. However, the ICT industry believes that the current deadline is unrealistic and will not only result in the industry facing penal action but also in CPCB not meeting its goals of obtaining the data.

We also would like to apprise you that the Battery Waste Rules, 2022, and the E-waste Rules, 2022 have also gone live at this time and the industry is in a tight spot to ensure compliance with all the regulations at the same time to ensure continuity of the business.

Further, this data is required for an entire year and hence, extending the deadline will not have any impact/damage to the environment and therefore EC should not be levied.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to extend the deadline and align it with the annual report filing (for FY 22-23, it is 31st Oct '23) so that the ICT industry can have adequate time to explore ways of either implementing CPCB directive or suggest an alternate solution(s) to MoEF&CC/CPCB towards effective implementation of this new requirement while also complying with other regulations such as the Battery Waste Rules, 2022 and the E-waste Rules, 2022, and create an atmosphere that enables Ease of Doing Business.

In view of ongoing complexities/difficulties in uploading procurement/sales transactions/invoices, and as a result, required data not being uploaded in the portal towards renewal of PIBO registrations, it is requested that PIBO authorizations are automatically renewed and necessary instructions be passed to Customs to not to hold imports on this account.

We also request the Ministry to have a consultative process with the ICT industry to resolve the issues and arrive at a workable solution.

We are sanguine that our request will be considered and addressed in a positive manner by your good office.

Warm regards



Col. AA Jafri, Retd.
Director General

CC: Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, IAS, Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC
CC: Dr Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, CPCB
CC: Ms. Manmeet Nanda, IAS, Jt. Secretary, DPIIT
CC: Ms. Asha Nangia, Sr Director & Group Coordinator, MeitY
CC: Shri Satyendra Kumar, IPS, Director, MoEF&CC
CC: Ms. Divya Sinha, Director, CPCB