

Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022

Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC)** notified the **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022** to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries. These rules will replace the **Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001**.

Key Highlights of the Rules:

- **Coverage:**
 - The rules cover all types of batteries, including Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries, and industrial batteries.
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):**
 - The rules function based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers of batteries are responsible for the collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries and the use of recovered materials from waste into new batteries.
 - EPR mandates that all waste batteries be collected and sent for recycling/refurbishment, and it prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration.
 - To meet the EPR obligations, producers may engage themselves or authorize any other entity for the collection, recycling, or refurbishment of waste batteries.
 - It will enable the setting up of a mechanism and centralized online portal for the exchange of EPR certificates between producers and recyclers/refurbishers to fulfill the obligations of producers.
- **Waste Management:**
 - They promote the setting up of new industries and entrepreneurship in the collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries.
- **New Business Opportunities:**
 - Mandating the minimum percentage of recovery of materials from waste batteries under the rules will bring new technologies and investment in the recycling and refurbishment industry and create new business opportunities.
- **Reduce Dependency on Raw Materials:**
 - Prescribing the use of a certain number of recycled materials in the making of new batteries will reduce the dependency on new raw materials and save natural resources.
- **Online Registration:**
 - Online registration & reporting, auditing, and committee for monitoring the implementation of rules and taking measures required for removal of difficulties.

- **Principle of Polluter Pays:**
 - Environmental compensation will be imposed for non-fulfilment of Extended Producer Responsibility targets, responsibilities and obligations set out in the rules.
- **Environmental compensation Fund:**
 - The funds collected under environmental compensation shall be utilized in the collection and refurbishing or recycling of uncollected and non-recycled waste batteries.

References:

1. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1854433>