



Toxics Link
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WBPCB

E-WASTE AWARENESS WORKSHOP- RESPONSIBILITY OF BULK CONSUMERS

Health Care Institutions

03rd August 2012

AUDITORIUM, PARIBESH BHAWAN, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA

Organised By

WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

&

TOXICS LINK

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



MAIT



adelphi



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**WORKSHOP SERIES
ON
E-WASTE MANAGEMENT & HANDLING RULES, 2011**

INTRODUCTION

The second workshop of the series for bulk generators on E-waste Handling & Management Rules, 2011 was organized by West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) & Toxics Link on 3rd August 2012 at the Auditorium of Paribesh Bhawan. These workshops are being organized under European Commission sponsored project on Establishing E-Waste Channels to Enhance Environment Friendly Recycling (WEEE Recycle). The workshop was organized for all health care institutions and saw a good turnout from the representative sector. The objectives of organizing the workshop are detailed below.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The objectives of this workshop were:

- To inform the participants about the new E-waste Handling & Management Rules, 2011 and the responsibilities of bulk generators.
- To inform about WEEE Recycle project & its deliverables
- To discuss on the best strategies for establishing clean and regulated e-waste recycling channels.

PROGRAMME PROCEEDINGS

1. Inaugural Session

Welcome Address: Prof. N. Bandhyopadhy, Advisor, WBPCB

Prof. N. Bandyopadhy, Advisor, WBPCB delivered the welcome address. Welcoming the guests and participants, he shared the objectives of conducting this workshop. He introduced the issue of E-waste and growing usage of Electronics in the health care sector. He mentioned that new rules have come into effect from this May and deliberations from this workshop would help in identifying achievable steps for proper implementation of this new rule. He also mentioned that WBPCB & Toxics Link are jointly organizing series of workshops on these new E-waste Handling & Management Rules & this is second one in the series. He thanked Toxics Link for taking such an initiative and expressed hope that the forum will be used for a fruitful discussion on establishing clean and regulated e-waste recycling channels. He also thanked the representatives of all the health care institutions who had participated in the workshop for their attendance.

Introductory Speech: Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairperson, WBPCB

In the introductory speech, Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairperson, WBPCB focussed on the fact that the nature of wastes is changing gradually. He pointed out that fifty years back we were only concerned about air & water pollutions. Then environmental issues like soil pollution, noise pollution & bio-medical wastes etc came into focus. E-waste is the latest addition in this list. In developed countries of EU also, E-waste rules came into force only in last few years. In India, the rules have become effective from this May. But the problem is lack of awareness about the Rules among stakeholders. Effective mechanism is required for percolating the information to different levels. He mentioned the roles & responsibilities of Pollution Control Board & other socio-developmental organizations in regards to making the society aware of these rules. He mentioned that through this kind of workshops manufacturers or generators of e-wastes will become more aware about the rules. Prof. Dutta requested the representatives of health care institutions to follow the guidelines of the rules like the way they are following the Bio-medical waste rules to avoid creation of environmental pollution. He thanked Toxics Link for taking this initiative.

Objective of the Workshop: Mr. Satish Sinha, Associate Director, Toxics Link

In his speech, Mr. Satish Sinha, Associate Director, Toxics Link shared about Toxics Link's work on chemicals, toxicity, wastes & environmental pollution. He mentioned that bio-medical waste was the first issue which was taken up by Toxics Link in the year 1999 and it is good to be with the same group, the health care institutions, once again. He spoke about the work Toxics Link is doing on E-waste since 2003 and pointed out the complexities associated with e-waste management. He also shared that only a few countries have comprehensive law on e-waste & India is one of them.

Developing countries like India have their own set of challenges, specially related to collection. Health care sector is one of the major generators of e-waste and bulk generators like them need to ensure that they are moving towards the right direction and are not dumping these wastes to the unskilled sector. He suggested that bulk generators or consumers need to make internal policy for safe disposal & collection of such waste to ensure least environmental pollution. They should organize awareness generation programmes for their staffs, visitors. They need to clearly spell out that manufactures who provide such goods should have the responsibility to take these goods back after end of life and to recycle properly. This step would lead to a very important shift. The rationale behind this principle is that electronic manufacturers are profiting from the sale of these electronic goods hence it becomes their responsibility to take these products. The concept of extended producers' responsibilities emerges from there.

He then focussed on the European Union supported 4 city project on Establishing E-Waste Channels to Enhance Environment Friendly Recycling (WEEE Recycle). One of the main objectives of this project is to mainstream informal sector and to sustain their livelihoods under the purview of the e-waste rules. Mr. Sinha mentioned about other partners (GIZ, MAIT, ADELPHI) of this project. He also mentioned that Toxics Link has placed 12 e-waste collection bins in different prime locations of Kolkata under this project for creating a model in terms safe disposal of such wastes. Lastly he thanked the participants for their presence in the workshop & hoped that health care institutions will follow the guidelines of this new e-waste handling & management rules very well like the way they are doing with bio-medical rules.

2. Technical Session

Presentation on E-waste Handling & Management Rules 2011: By Mr. S. K. Adhikari, Sr. Engineer, WBPCB

Mr. Adhikari's presentation began with what is e-waste, types and composition of e-waste. He described the concerns about e-waste, scenario of e-waste in Kolkata, its main sources etc. He shared findings of the study that was conducted on e-waste in Kolkata by WBPCB, which quantified annual e-waste generation in Kolkata to be around 26,000 tons.

He then elaborated on E-waste Handling & Management Rules, 2011. He explained the features of the rule, responsibilities of manufactures, consumers, recyclers etc in detail. He stressed on the fact that all bulk consumers should dispose e-waste only to authorized recyclers and maintain records of all e-waste disposed. In discussing the rule he cited the example of electronic manufacturers who are showing some interest in setting up collection/recycling centres. Under the Rule under the provisions of Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) it is now mandatory for producers to take back the goods that they sell in market.

Presentation - "Why Recycle E-waste": Ms Priti Mahesh, Sr. Programme Coordinator, Toxics Link

Ms Priti Mahesh, Sr. Programme Coordinator, Toxics Link, in her presentation focussed on the importance of e-waste recycling & the existing scenario of e-waste recycling in India. She spoke about the environmental hazards caused due to the presence of toxic materials like lead, mercury, cadmium, barium, beryllium, brominated flame retardant etc in E-waste. Ms Priti added that e-waste also contains lots of precious metals. These metals exist naturally and are available in limited quantity. If we are going on using these metals then very soon the time will come when no such metals would be available in nature. She then presented some data on the growth of electrical & electronic wastes of India and E-waste generation. She mentioned that Govt., public & private sectors are generating 70% of such wastes.

Ms Priti also mentioned about current practices of e-waste recycling in India. She stressed upon the informal sector's involvement in this work and related health hazards & environmental pollutions of such works. She also shared about environmental, social & economical impacts of this work. She said that the recovery rates in the informal sector are low, whereas in the formal sector it can be much better.

Ms Priti then pointed out following action points for the organizations:

- To encourage the manufacturers/producers to ensure take back policy
- To follow 3R principle
- To ensure proper disposal of e-waste

Her presentation ends with the suggestions on what steps could be taken in this regard like making a policy for green procurement, safe disposal of e-waste etc.

Presentation on E-waste Scenario in Kolkata & Formalization of informal sector: Mr. Sasanka Dev, Secretary, DISHA

In his presentation, Mr. Sasanka Dev discussed about the process of formalization of informal sector under the WEEE Recycle project elaborately. He mentioned that proper method for recycling need be followed, but at the same time livelihood aspects of the informal sector should also be protected.

Mr. Dev also shared about the existing e-waste scenario in the city and its suburbs, collection methods, and current practices of dismantling. Finally, Mr. Dev shared information about Self Help Groups of e-waste collectors at village level. He also mentioned about two associations formed by informal recyclers. Among these two, the one which has been formed by Ukil Singh and Prasenjit Singh, has applied for Consent for Establishment from the (CFE) from the WBPCB. The other association formed by Sk. Tiwari will also apply for the CFE very soon.

Open house discussion

The open house discussion was moderated by Mr. Satish Sinha, Toxics Link. The other panelists were Mr. Adhikari, WBPCB, Ms Priti Mahesh, Toxics Link and Mr. Dev, DISHA. The major points raised and discussed are as follows:

- E-waste composition shown by Mr. Adhikari has indicated only 0.42% mobile phone in it, how it could be logical? Mr. Adhikari replied that the study was conducted in a limited area. Ms Priti added that the figures shown there were according to the product's weight. As the mobile phone's weight is much less in comparison to television or computer, that's why the figure is low.
- Unauthorized recyclers give some amount of money or some other product when they buy such wastes, but the rule has not mentioned about any sort of intensive for taking these products back by the manufactures. This would not create much interest among the consumers. In this relation Mr. Satish Sinha & Mr. Adhikari replied that manufacturers have already introduced exchange policy. They informed the participants that like previous years they can call auction for selling such materials, but the only thing which needs to be ensured that the vendor should have the authorization from the respective state pollution control board. They also shared that it is not mandatory for the producers to have individual recycling unit but they have to ensure the proper disposal or recycling methods.. It has been requested by the participants to make it mandatory for the manufacturers to incorporate money back policy in terms of taking back their products from the consumers.
- What are the norms for medical & non-medical e-wastes? Is there any list of those materials which have been covered under the rule? All the bulk generators must maintain records of e-waste generated and disposed in the prescribed format (form 2). There was no need to file these returns to the PCB but these forms should be under open scrutiny by PCB. Whenever there is disposal of e-waste the bulk generator should inform the PCB. The recyclers & dismantlers need to file the returns to the PCB. The list of all materials has been provided under the rule.
- There is a complete different set of medical electrical & electronic equipments. But these have not been covered under the rule.

Mr. Satish Sinha replied that the rule has been formulated & came into force in the recent time. But as the implementation process of this rule has been started, so we can hope that gradually those medical equipments will also be added in the list.

- Participants requested Pollution Control Board to run a helpdesk for providing information regarding this rule.
- The prices of green products are higher. There needs to be some kind of relaxations by Govt. to promote the use of such products. Could Toxics Link do advocacy with Govt. for this? Mr. Satish Sinha answered that Toxics Link has already started working on this aspect. He informed that in a personal conversation the advocate general of India mentioned that greener and expensive products may be purchased in govt. and all departments if it can be established

that such products are benefitting the environment. Govt. has also started including procurement of green products in their policy. The advocacy is still going on. The manufacturers are also coming forward to make greener products. He also shared that like the way relaxation is there for non mercury equipments; there might be some relaxations for greener products in near future as the demand for such products is increasing. Ms. Mahesh also stressed on the fact that once consumers begin using these products and with technological advancement the prices of these products will fall citing the examples of how CRT monitors have given way to flat screen and more energy efficient monitors. Mr. Adhikari pointed out that pollution control equipment in general is exempt from import duty.

Vote of Thanks: Ms Priti Mahesh, Sr. Programme Coordinator, Toxics Link

Ms Priti Mahesh thanked all participants for attending the workshop. She thanked European Commission for their support & also mentioned about the other partners of this project. She thanked the West Bengal Pollution Control Board for extending their cooperation in organizing this workshop & said that without WBPCB's support bulk generators could not be reached easily. She expressed hope that organization of the workshop would help in implementation of the new E-waste Handling and Management Rules & an informed response from the participant organizations would contribute to clean recycling channels and also said that further suggestions from the participants in this regard are always most welcomed.

Photo Gallery



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Time	Session
<i>10:30 - 11.00hrs.</i>	<i>Registration</i>
11:00 - 11:15 hrs.	Welcome address by Prof. N. Bandhyopadhyaya, Advisor , WBPCB
11:15 - 11:30 hrs.	Introductory speech by Prof. Binay K. Dutta, Chairman, WBPCB
11.30 - 11.50 hrs.	Introduction to the Workshop and its Objectives by Mr. Satish Sinha, Associate Director, Toxics Link
<i>11.50 – 12.00 hrs.</i>	<i>Tea Break</i>
12.00 – 12.30 hrs.	Presentation on the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 Mr. S. K. Adhikari, Sr. Env Engineer, WBPCB
12.30 – 12.50 hrs.	sumers Ms Priti Mahesh, Toxics Link
12.50 – 13.10 hrs.	Need to integrate the informal sector, Mr Sasanka Dev, DISHA
13.15 – 13.40 hrs.	Panel Discussion -Moderated by Mr Satish Sinha, Toxics Link Panelists: Mr Adhikari, Ms Priti Mahesh, Mr Sasanka Dev
13.40 – 13.45hrs.	Vote of Thanks
<i>13:45hrs onwards</i>	<i>Lunch</i>