

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of Committee held on 26th March 2014 constituted for preparing Guidelines/regulation in respect of tyre molding /retreading activities

The Senior Law Officer, MPCB welcomed the Members . He referred the Orders passed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 14/2/2014 and 12/3/2014. He informed that the applicants are mainly complaining about is burning of tyres, particularly bulk of tyres at the public places in the locality surrounded by the residential houses, which emits air pollutants and causing nuisance. He further informed that the applicant amended the application seeking directions t for framing Rules regarding bar coding which will help to trace the used tyres and prevent the misuse of old ones by adopting more eco-friendly process in the tyre re-molding / re-treading industry. The applicant has also sought information about the existing industries and their status of compliance with environment norms from MPCB. The amended prayers and contents of the application were read out. The Senior Law Officer circulated certain guidelines prepared by Rajasthan Pollution Control Board.

Dr Shyam Asolekar, Professor, IIT, Powai pointed out that tyre moulding activity's pollution potential depends upon the scale of the activity, the necessity of vulcanization and retreading /remolding etc. He expressed view that moulding involves heating and while cutting tyres, carbon emissions, sulphar contents, dust particulate matters with unburn particles and noise pollution caused nuisance in the surrounding residential areas. Tyre is highly cumbstable material and therefore higher safety measures required to be adopted. If properly not controlled, the emissions can cause exposure to the workers and therefore on the nature of the activity, with reference to scale, the requirement of consent can be decided. The Committee Members were of the considered view that small scale activity of tyre molding/repairing in the Garages in the road side may not be covered under grant of consent. Because their main activity is garage and repairs of tyres is incidental. The committee was also of the view that smaller re-trader without processing or doing manual operations may not be considered for consent. Some of them may recover only metal, some of them recover tyre wastes and most of them are engaged in the manual repairs, may not be brought under consent regime.

It was suggested that a reference be made to CPCB and all the PCBs seeking information about the status and environmental guidelines prepared for such activities.

Shri A.B.Jain, representing Balkrishna Industries Limited informed that by and large the bar coding system is followed by major tyre manufacturers. However, the bar coding stickers which are placed on the side walls do not remain intact for longer time. As regards re-molding / re-treading units are concerned, the Committee will have to make short term and long term recommendations . The CPCB website and also the Environment (Protection) Rules are silent on the requirements / environmental standards for tyre molding / re-treading activities and therefore, a uniform approach may have to be taken.

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Dr. Y.B.Sontakke, Regional Officer, MPCB, Navi Mumbai was of the view that the Committee should visit couple of such units / activities to understand and get first hand knowledge of the existing scenario. . He was of the view that lifecycle approach need to be adopted in handling tyre wastes. Tyre wastes is usable material in the above activities and therefore its use should be promoted by adopting recover, recycle and reprocess approach, which should be Environmental Friendly approach. Dr Asolekar expressed view that holistic approach will have to be adopted in such type of activities by providing protectors, such as Gumboots, Helmet, Gloves, Goggles etc with First Aid and Regular Medical Checkup as well as ESI facilities etc. He also insisted that energy recovery sector of remanufacture from tyre waste needs to be developed.

Dr. Sontakke stated that Extended Producer's Responsibility Principle adopted in E-waste management will have to be adopted in the waste tyre use and re-manufacturing activity.

Dr. Supate, Principal Scientific Officer informed that the pyrolysis activities needs to be monitored properly. In Gujarat state, the pyrolysis manufacturing activities in the residential areas have been prohibited. Rajasthan Pollution Control Board has come up with the guidelines for abatement of pollution from scrapped tyre pyrolysis plants. MPCB may adopt those guidelines after visit and inspection of few such type of plants and control equipments. Shri. Lalit Rathi told that if proper pollution control equipments installed and operated properly, then pyrolysis activity is one of the best renewable energy activity, which needs to be promoted. However the location should be away from residential and thickly populated areas.

It was decided that the committee will visit and inspect few tyre molding / retreading activities in and around MMRDA Area. Based on the observations during visits, further approach to the issues raised in the application can be decided. It was decided to submit a pre-liminary status report to the NGT giving the present status of such activities. The members were of the view that for preparing proper and scientific guidelines and to address the issue in a more holistic manner, sufficient time should be sought from NGT.
