

Guidelines for Collection, Storage, Transportation, Recycling and Disposal of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals

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CONTENTS

Sl. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Background	1
2.	Objective	2
3.	Role and Responsibilities of Collection Agents as per HOWM Amendment Rules, 2025	3
4.	Role and Responsibilities of Recyclers as per HOWM Amendment Rules, 2025	3
5.	Guidelines for Collection, Storage and Transportation of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals	3
A.	Guidelines for Collection of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals	3
B.	Guidelines for Storage of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals	4
C.	Guidelines for Transportation of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals	5
6.	Guidelines for Recycling and Disposal of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals	5

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1. Background

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2025 vide G.S.R. 438(E) dated 01.07.2025, wherein, Chapter VIII, namely, Extended Producer Responsibility for Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals was inserted. In the said Rules, following relevant definitions defined at Rule 44 as below:

a) "non-ferrous metals" means aluminium or copper or zinc or their alloys for the purpose of the said rules;
b) "product" means any product made of non-ferrous metals as listed in Schedule-X as below:
    i. Cans for beverages, aerosols and other such product
    ii. Packaging Foils for food, pharma and other such product
    iii. Doors, windows, shutters
    iv. Aluminium Composite Panel
    v. Aluminium partitioning, grills and other such product
    vi. Utensils (cookware, canisters, storage and other such product)
    vii. Furniture tables, chairs, benches, ladders etc. including doorknobs, handles, hardware's
    viii. Roofing and Ceiling sheets
    ix. Motors, pumps, alternators and other such product (other than automobile grade)
    x. Conductor cables and Wires, strips (other than automobile grade)
    xi. Sanitary ware and fittings
    xii. Electrical fittings (other than automobile grade)
    xiii. Aluminium Alloy Bicycle
    xiv. Transformer (other than automobile grade)
    xv. Electric Generator sets
    xvi. Centralized air conditioning plants
    xvii. Apparel products e.g. Belt Buckles, Zip, Shoes
    xviii. Toys;
c) "end-of-life" of the product means the time when the product including refurbished products is no longer used for the intended purpose;
d) "orphaned products" means non-branded products listed in Schedule-X of these rules; or those produced by a company which has closed its operation;
e) "bulk consumer" means any entity using at least one thousand tons of non-ferrous metal products listed in Schedule-X, at any point of time in the particular financial year, and includes e-retailer;

f) “collection points” means the facility where the registered collection agent would collect the scrap of non-ferrous metals;
g) “collection agent” means a person or entity that collects scrap of non-ferrous metals;
h) “manufacturer” means a person or an entity or a company which is manufacturing any product or component or spare part of non-ferrous metals as specified in Schedule-X of these rules;
i) “producer” means any person or entity, irrespective of the selling technique used such as dealer, retailer, e-retailer, who,
    i. manufactures and offers to sell products made up of non-ferrous metals and their components or consumables or parts or spares under its own brand, using non-ferrous metals; or
    ii. offers to sell under its brand products made up of non-ferrous metals and their components or consumables or parts or spares produced by other manufacturers or suppliers, using nonferrous metals; or
    iii. offers to sell imported products made up of non-ferrous metals and their components or consumables or parts or spares under their own brand or original brand, using non-ferrous metals; or
    iv. who imports used devices or products or scrap of non-ferrous metals;
j) “recycling” means any process of melting and refining of end of life products as listed in Schedule-X, made of non–ferrous metals and producing value-added products or recycled metals and alloys in an environmentally sound manner and having facilities as elaborated in the standard operating procedure or guidelines specified by the Central Pollution Control Board;
k) “recycler” means any person or entity engaged in the process of recycling scrap of non- ferrous metals;
l) “refurbisher” means any person or entity repairing or assembling used product made of non– ferrous metals as listed in Schedule- XII for extending its working life over its originally intended life and for same use as originally intended, and selling the same in the market as the same brand or in new brand name.

As per the Rule 57(1)(c) of the HOWM Amendment Rules, 2025, one of the responsibility of the Central Pollution Control Board is to prepare and issue Guidelines for collection, storage, transportation, recycling and disposal of scrap of non-ferrous metals under the said rules.

2. Objective

This guideline will provide the framework for the safe and environmentally sound handling, collection, storage, transportation, recycling and disposal of scrap of non-ferrous metals.

3. Role and Responsibilities of Collection Agents as per HOWM Amendment Rules, 2025

As per the Extended Producer responsibility (EPR) framework notified under Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2025, Collection Agents are responsible to collect end of life scrap of non-ferrous metals from the manufacturer, producers, bulk consumers and supply to the registered recycler and upload information relating thereto on the portal.

4. Role and Responsibilities of Recyclers as per HOWM Amendment Rules, 2025

a) Every recycler shall register itself on the portal.
b) The recycler shall ensure that the facility and recycling processes are in accordance with these rules.
c) The recycler shall ensure that no damage is caused to the environment during storage, transportation and recycling of scrap of non-ferrous metals.
d) The recycler shall ensure that the residue generated during the recycling process is disposed of in accordance with prevalent rules and regulations.
e) The recycler shall maintain a record of scrap of non-ferrous metals received by it and the quantity of scrap recycled, not recycled or disposed of and upload such record on the portal on regular basis.
f) The recycler shall ensure that the fractions or material which cannot be recycled in its facility are sent to other registered recyclers where it can be recycled.

5. Guidelines for Collection, Storage and Transportation of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals

A. Guidelines for Collection of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals

i. Registered Collection Agents shall collect scrap from the following sources:
   a. Post-consumer scrap: End-of-life products from households, institutions, retailers, etc. (e.g., aluminium cans, copper wire, zinc sheets, etc.).
   b. Post-industrial scrap: Scarp generated during manufacturing/production/refurbishing process by the manufacturer/producer/ refurbisher.
   c. Bulk Consumer scrap: Scrap generated by Bulk Consumers after end-of-life of the products and collected in the collection points established by them.
ii. Scrap should be segregated at the point of collection by non-ferrous metal type (e.g., aluminium, copper, zinc, and their alloys) and labelled properly.
iii. Components containing hazardous substances should be handled in accordance with the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and amendments thereof.
iv. Scrap should be periodically transferred from collection points to designated storage area to prevent excessive accumulation.

v. Workers engaged in collection should be provided with heavy-duty gloves, safety shoes with steel toe caps, dust masks (N95 or equivalent) where dusty materials are handled, protective eyewear, and high-visibility safety vests and should use these personal protective equipments for prevention from occupational hazards.

vi. Collection agents should maintain records of the quantity and type of scrap (Al, Cu, Zn) collected and provide these details at the time of filing returns on the portal.

vii. The bulk consumers shall set up collection points to facilitate collection agents in the collection and transportation of scrap of non-ferrous metals from their premises.

viii. The bulk consumers shall ensure that scrap of non-ferrous metals generated by them shall be handed over only to registered recyclers or refurbishers or producers or collection agents.

ix. The Department of Industry in the State and Union Territory or any other relevant Government agency of the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, shall ensure earmarking or allocation of industrial space or shed for collection of scrap of non-ferrous metals in the existing and upcoming industrial parks, estates and industrial clusters.

x. Municipalities and Local Bodies, shall facilitate manufacturers, producers, bulk consumers or collection agents to set up a large number of collection points for collection of scrap of non-ferrous metals in their jurisdictional areas.

xi. Municipalities and Local Bodies, shall ensure that scrap of non-ferrous metals, if found mixed with Municipal Solid Waste, is properly segregated, collected and channelized to registered entities involved in recycling.

xii. Municipalities and Local Bodies, shall ensure that scrap of non-ferrous metals pertaining to orphan products is collected and channelized to the registered recycler.

xiii. State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of Union territories, shall facilitate the setting up of collection points by the collection agents.

B. Guidelines for Storage of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals

i. The storage yard/area should be clearly demarcated, fenced, and labelled with signboards identifying the type of metals stored.

ii. The storage floor shall be made of reinforced cement concrete (RCC) or equivalent impermeable surface to prevent leaching of metal contaminants into soil and groundwater.

iii. Separate bays / zones for Aluminium scrap, Copper scrap, and Zinc scrap should be maintained to prevent cross-contamination.

iv. The storage area should be covered or have adequate provision to prevent water ingress and wind-blown dispersion of fine particles (swarf, turnings, filings, etc.).

v. The storage facility should not exceed the capacity declared in the Portal registration application without prior intimation and amendment on the Portal.

vi. Adequate fire extinguishers of appropriate type should be provided (CO_2 / dry sand for aluminium dust; CO_2 or dry chemical for copper/zinc). Water should not be used for aluminium dust/powder fires.

vii. A Stock Register should be maintained recording: (a) Date of receipt of each consignment; (c) Metal type, grade, quantity; (d) Current stock balance; (e) Date of dispatch to registered Recycler.

C. Guidelines for Transportation of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals

i. Non-ferrous metal scrap should be transported only in designated containers, bins, pallets, or vehicles suitable for the type and quantity of scrap being handled.
ii. Transporter should ensure that scrap remains segregated by metal type (e.g., aluminium, copper, zinc, brass, bronze, and their alloys) during transportation.
iii. All designated containers, bins, pallets, or vehicles should be structurally sound and leak-proof to prevent any spillage.
iv. Designated containers, bins, pallets, or vehicles used for transportation should be adequately covered to prevent spillage and wind-blown dispersion of fine particles.
v. Vehicles, drivers, and transportation activities should comply with the applicable provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and other relevant statutory requirements. Appropriate safety signage, markings, and permits should be displayed as required.

6. Guidelines for Recycling and Disposal of Scrap of Non-Ferrous Metals

i. The recycler shall maintain a record of scrap of non-ferrous metals received by it and the quantity of scrap recycled, not recycled or disposed of and upload such record on the portal on regular basis.
ii. The recycler shall ensure that the fractions or material which cannot be recycled in its facility are sent to other registered recyclers where it can be recycled.
iii. The unit should install an adequate fume extraction system (suction hood) at the charging and molten metal tapping points and channelize the collected fumes to the Air Pollution Control Device (APCD).
iv. Unit should have adequate APCD (such as Bag filter, scrubbers etc.) to meet the stipulated emission norms.
v. Each stack installed by the unit should have minimum stack height of 30 meters and should be provided with adequate stack monitoring facilities in accordance with the CPCB Emission Regulations Part-III (ERP-III) document.
vi. The unit should have separate covered storage space with an impervious flooring for storage of scrap of non-ferrous metal.
vii. The design of the hood/fume extraction system for melting/refining operations, including emissions from tapping points, charging doors, furnace joints, etc., should be adequate for the collection and transfer of fumes to the air pollution control system.
viii. Raw materials, intermediates, products, and non-ferrous metal scrap should be stored and handled in covered areas or sheds provided with concrete or impervious flooring. Material handling should be carried out using suitable mechanized equipment, wherever feasible.

ix. The unit should provide a separate, secure, and covered storage area for the storage of residue, dross, and other waste generated from the recycling of non-ferrous metal scrap. Such waste should be managed in accordance with the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2016, and records of storage, transfer, transportation, and disposal to authorized Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) should be maintained.

x. Dross of aluminium, copper, and zinc generated during the recycling of non-ferrous scrap shall be either: (a) processed in-house (having authorization for processing/recycling of dross); or (b) transferred to authorized processors/recyclers having permission under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2016.