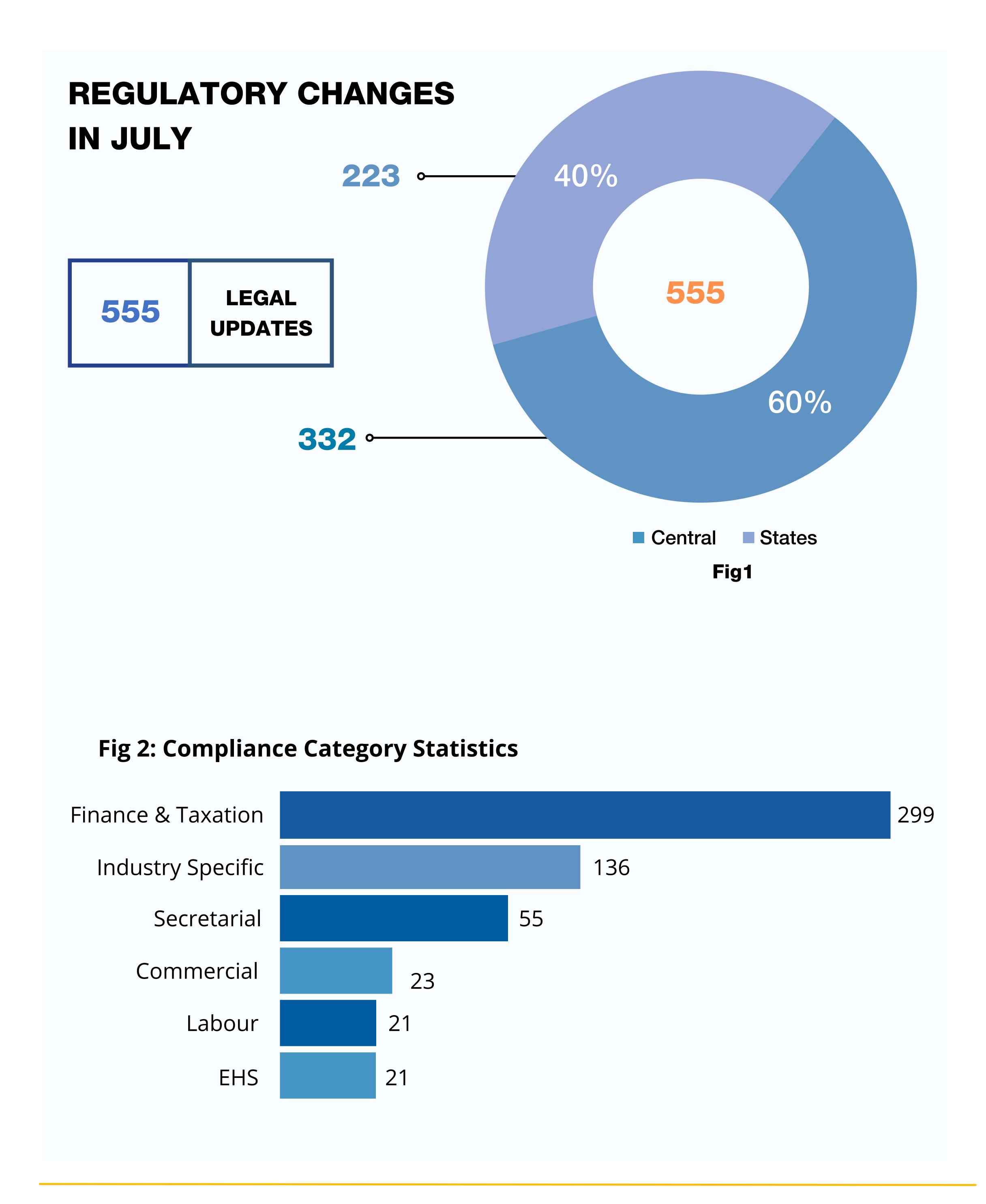






MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUMMARY

The month saw 555 legal and regulatory changes across Centre and States and across various categories.



1 FINANCE AND TAXATION UPDATES

There were 299 regulatory updates in this category

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) exempted registered persons with aggregate turnover in the financial year 2021-22 of up to Rs. 2 crore from filing annual returns for the said financial year.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the Master Direction on Systemically Important Non-Deposit Taking Company and Deposit Taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016 and the Master Direction Reserve Bank of India [Lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector] Directions, 2017.
- The Good and Services Tax Network (GSTN) issued a detailed advisory on the phase-wise implementation of mandatory mentioning of HSN codes in Table 12 of GSTR-1 on the GST Portal.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) issued a circular to provide clarity on the implementation of Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS) with reference to the applicability of PIMS at the time of import at SEZ/FTWZ/EOU and further import into DTA.
- The Ministry of Finance revised the rate of interest on deposits made under the Special Deposit Scheme for Non-Government Provident, Superannuation, and Gratuity Funds to 7.1% with effect from July 01, 2022.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a notification on International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees (INR). It has put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in INR. For this, prior approval must be taken from the Foreign Exchange Department of Reserve Bank of India, Central Office at Mumbai.

- The Ministry of Finance permitted certain reporting entities that comply with the standards of privacy and security under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 to perform Aadhar authentication for the purposes of section 11A of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. This decision has been taken after consultation with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The Ministry of Finance issued a notification to clarify certain FAQs on GST applicability on 'pre-packaged and labelled' goods with effect from July 18, 2022. These clarifications pertain to the nature and scope of changes in the GST rate, stage of applicability of the GST rate and other relevant issues.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the Restriction on Storage of Actual Card Data [i.e. Cardon-File (CoF)]. With effect from October 1, 2022, no entity in the card transaction/payment chain, other than the card issuers and/or card networks, shall store CoF data. Any such data stored previously shall be purged.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing and Lending) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2022. The individual limit of borrowing under Paragraph 8 of Schedule I has been temporarily increased from USD 750 million or equivalent per financial year to USD 1500 million or equivalent. This dispensation will be available for External Commercial Borrowings raised till December 31, 2022.

Click here to view all the Finance and Taxation legal updates



2 INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC UPDATES

There were 136 regulatory updates in this category

- The Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) permitted general insurers to introduce new add-ons in Motor Insurance. The new add-ons are:

 (a) Pay As You Drive;
 (b) Pay How You Drive;
 (c) floater policy for vehicles belonging to same individual owner for two wheelers and private cars.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second Amendment)Rules, 2022. It allows electronic products to declare certain mandatory declarations in a digital format through the QR Code for a period of one year.
- The Ministry of Power notified the Power System Operation Corporation Limited as the Central Nodal Agency to set up and operate a single-window green energy open access system for renewable energy.
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued a notification regarding deregulating sale of domestically produced crude oil whereby Government of India shall cease allocation of crude oil and condensate with effect from October 01, 2022.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued an order mandating all FSSAI-notified laboratories to use the manuals of the method of analysis, as amended/adopted by FSSAI from time to time, for analysing the samples of food articles. In case the method for analysing any parameter is not available in these manuals, a validated method of analysis prescribed by internationally recognised / analytical / regulatory agencies shall be adopted.

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development issued the Draft Guidelines for Child Participation in the Entertainment Industry or any Commercial Entertainment Activity. It shall cover television programmes including reality shows, TV serials, news and informative media, movies, content on OTT platforms and social media, performing arts, advertising and any other kind of commercial entertainment activities.
- The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers extended the capping of the trade margin of five medical devices, namely, Pulse Oximeter, Blood Pressure Monitoring Machine, Nebulizer, Digital Thermometer and Glucometer at first point of sale (price to distributor) from July 31, 2022 to December 31, 2022.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on July 26, 2022 has extended the mandatory compliance timelines under the Food Safety and Standards (Vegan Foods) Regulations, 2022 for a period of 6 months, i.e. till January 26, 2023.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) issued a circular to invite the Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Advertising Agencies

 2022 to provide Agencies with information to assist the formulation of their proposals pursuant to this EOI.

Click here to view all the Industry Specific legal updates



3 COMMERCIAL UPDATES

There were 23 regulatory updates in this category

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has further relaxed the requirement of submitting 'Bill of Export' for supplies made to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the EPCG Authorisation for all supplies made prior to April 1, 2015.
- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued guidelines to prevent unfair trade practices and protect consumer interest with regard to levy of service charge in hotels and restaurants. No hotel or restaurant can add service charge automatically or by default in the bill. A consumer cannot be forced to pay service charge and must be clearly informed that service charge is voluntary, optional and discretionary.

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- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued the Special Economic Zones (Third Amendment) Rules, 2022 to insert rule 43A (Work from Home) in the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued clarification on the Non-Ferrous Metal Import Monitoring System (NFMIMS), subsequent to the issuance of Notification No.61/2015-2020 dated March 31, 2021 amending the import policy of items of copper [Chapter-74 of ITC (HS)] and items of Aluminium [falling in Chapter-76 of ITC (HS)] from 'Free' to 'Free subject to compulsory registration under Non-Ferrous Metal Import Monitoring System (NFMIMS)'.



4 SECRETARIAL UPDATES

There were 55 regulatory updates in this category

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) issued a circular stating that UCC and PAN will be validated for all orders in all markets at the time of order entry with details as uploaded by members in UCI online. The order will be rejected in case of mismatch in the information. This came into effect from July 04, 2022.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended certain circulars on the arbitration mechanism in stock exchanges and on the investor grievance redressal mechanism. These amendments provide for online web based complaints redressal system, hybrid mode of conducting GRC and arbitration / appellate arbitration and speeding up of grievance redressal mechanism.
- The Ministry of Finance issued a notification declaring "zero coupon zero principal instruments" as securities for the purposes of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. These are instruments issued by a Not for Profit Organisation which shall be registered with Social Stock Exchange segment of a recognised Stock Exchange in accordance with the regulations made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- Click here to view all the Secretarial legal updates

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) extended the time for filing of information required under Regulation 46 and 62 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 on the NSE Electronic Application Processing System (NEAPS) to August 31, 2022.
- The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), with reference to the GST Council in its meeting held on June 28 and June 29, 2022, recommended to withdraw the GST exemption granted to services by SEBI. Accordingly, all listed market infrastructure institutions and companies and persons dealing in the securities market will pay GST on the fees and other applicable charges to the SEBI at the rate of 18% with effect from July 18, 2022.
- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued a clarification on spending of CSR funds for 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign. Spending of CSR funds for the activities related to this campaign (such as mass scale production and supply of the National Flag, outreach and amplification efforts and other related activities) are eligible CSR activities under item no. (ii) of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, pertaining to promotion of education relating to culture.



5 LABOUR UPDATES

There were 21 regulatory updates in this category

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) extended the medical benefits under the Regulation 95-A of the Employees' State Insurance (General) Regulations, 1950 and the Tamil Nadu Employees' State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Rules, 1958 to the families of insured persons in the entire area of Thoothukudi district (Earlier Tuticorin) in Tamil Nadu, in addition to the already implemented area in the district. This came into effect on July 1, 2022.
- The Department of Labour, Punjab permitted all open on all 365 days of the year. This will stay in force till May 31, 2023.
- establishments registered under the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958 to keep
- Labour Welfare Skill Development The and Department, Tamil Nadu revised the minimum rates of wages for employment in cotton ginning and pressing, cotton waste, bakeries and biscuits manufactory, polythene manufactory, processing foam items and plastic manufactory under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- The Ministry of Labour and Employment notified the details of the States/UTs that have pre-published the draft Rules of the four labour code namely, the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Heath and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code).

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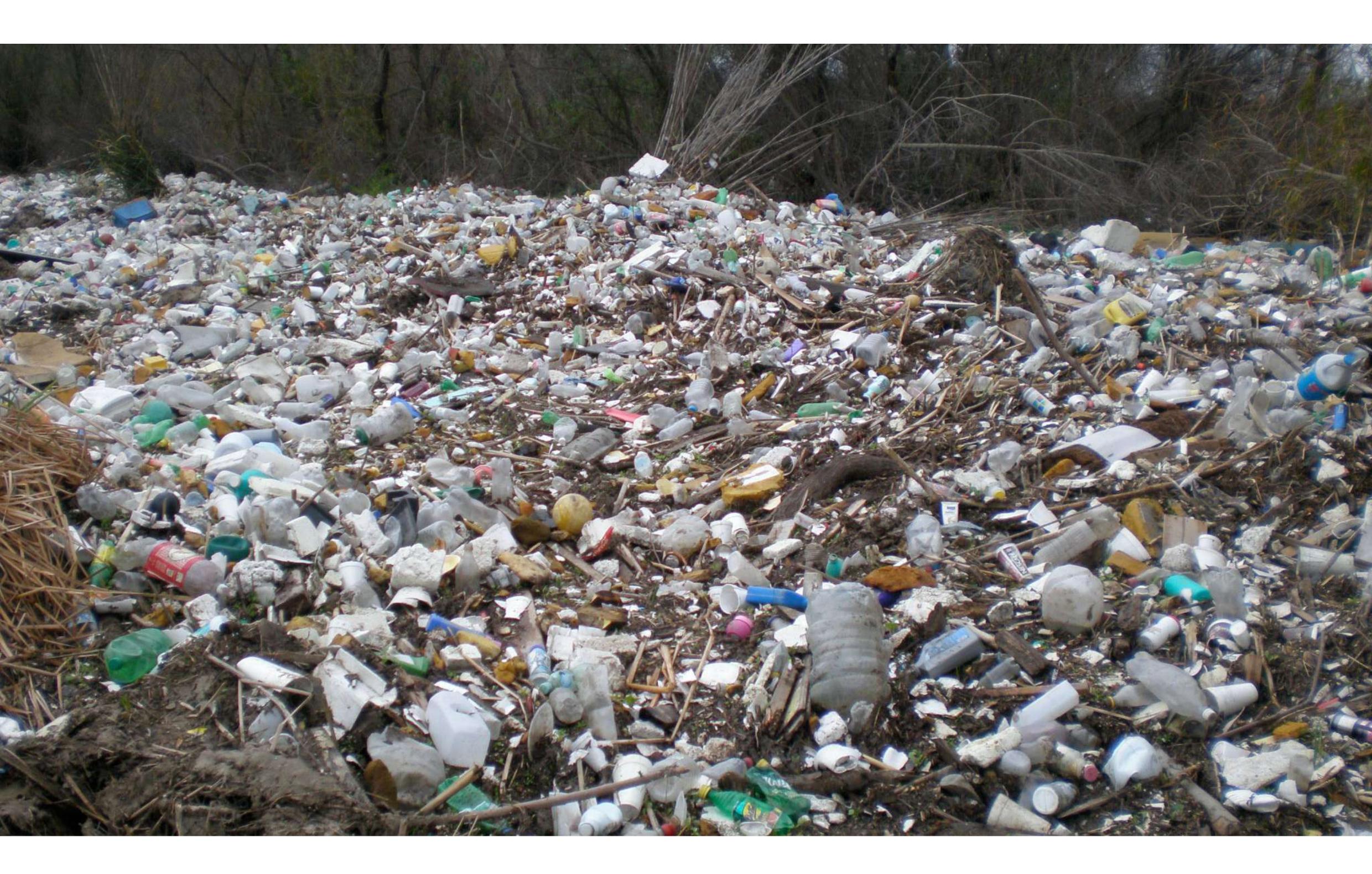


6 EHS (ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY) UPDATES

There were 13 regulatory updates in this category

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022 with force from July 6, 2022. It inserts certain new definitions under rule 3, amends certain provisions in rule 4 (conditions), rule 9 (responsibility of producers, importers and brand owners), rule 10 (protocols for compostable and biodegradeable plastic materials), rule 11 (marking or labelling), rule 12 (prescribed authority), rule 13 (registration of producer, recycler and manufacturer) and rule 17 (annual reports), and substitutes Schedule I.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Rules, 2022 with effect from December 1, 2022. It makes amendments to Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Schedule pertaining to the textual and image contents of specified health warning for tobacco products.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2022. It inserts a new sub-rule to Rule 9 prescribing that the utilisation and management of waste tyre shall be in accordance to the provisions contained in Schedule IX. It also inserts a new Schedule IX specifying the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Waste Tyre.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a notification requiring all standalone re-rolling units or cold rolling units, which are in existence and in operation, to apply online for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) followed by Environmental Clearance. The application for the grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) shall be made within a period of 1 year from the date of this notification.

Click here to view all the EHS legal updates





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