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IPC-V(SSl)/Electroplating/2017 8181

August 18, 2017

To:

The Chairman
West Bengal Pollution Control Board,
Paribesh Bhavan, 10-A, Block LA,
Sector 3, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata-700 091

Sub: Directions under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for use of Non-cyanide based technology for electroplating purposes-regarding

WHEREAS, under Section 17 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, one of the functions of the Pollution Control Boards/Committees, constituted under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is to plan a comprehensive programme for the Prevention, Control or Abatement of Water Pollution in the State of West Bengal and to secure the execution thereof; and

WHEREAS, under Section 17 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, one of the functions of the Pollution Control Boards/Committees, constituted under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 is to plan a comprehensive programme for the Prevention, Control or Abatement of Air Pollution in the State of West Bengal and to secure the execution thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Cyanide based plating , especially Zinc, Copper, Brass, Bronze and Silver plating tend to create pollution problems as cyanide is a very toxic ingredient that is difficult to destroy or stabilize and dispose of in an environmentally sound manner thereof; and


WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Tribunal order of O.A. No. 200/2014 (C. Writ Petition No. 3727/1985) (M.A. No. 594/2017 & 598/2017) in the matter of M.C. Mehta vs Union of India, dated 13.07.2017, directed to Central Pollution Control Board to issue directions forthwith that the industries should be directed to use non-cyanide based technology for electroplating purposes and this would apply to the entire basin area of the river Ganga;

WHEREAS, in the report of Expert Committee constituted by CPCB entitled as "Guide to cleaner production in Electroplating Sector, April 2013" recommended alternative solutions for cyanide plating, mentioned in the Table II (available at: http://www.cpcb.nic.in/divisions/ofheadoffice/pci-ssi/Report_on_cleanerprod_electroplating_sector.pdf). The Cyanide free Alkaline Zinc Solution for plating has been reported to be practiced in the Electroplating Sectors of the Rajkot and Ludhiana;

AND NOW THEREFORE, in view of the above and in compliance of order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the Chairman, CPCB in exercise of the powers vested under the section 18 (1) (b) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 issues the following directions to West Bengal Pollution Control Board for compliance:


The Electroplating Industries should use non-cyanide based Technologies for all kind of electroplating purposes and accordingly SPCB shall grant consent and stipulate standards therein.

The West Bengal Pollution Control Board shall acknowledge the receipt of these directions within a week and submit detailed Action Taken Reports within two weeks thereafter.


(S.P. Singh Parihar)
Chairman, CPCB

Copy to:

- 1. Director General**
National Mission for Clean Ganga
(Ministry of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation),
1st Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate, New Delhi-110002
- 2. Additional Secretary**
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003
- 3. Regional Directorates (East)**
Central Pollution Control Board
Southernd Conclave, Block 502,
5th & 6th Floors, 1582, Rajdanga Main Road
Kolkata - 700 107 (W. B.)
- 4. Divisional Head, IT Division, CPCB**
- 5. Divisional Head, WQM-II Division, CPCB**


(A. B. Akolkar)
Member Secretary