BY SPEED POST

CP-11/7/2025-IPC-IV-HO-CPCB-HO/ 10084 March 11 , 2025

To,

M/s Avanthi Leathers Ltd.
Kambakkam Village, Varadaiahpalem,
Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh

Show Cause Notice under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

WHEREAS, Tanneries are identified as one of the 17 categories of highly polluting industries which have been discharging environmental pollutants directly or indirectly into the ambient air and water, having potential threat to cause adverse effect on the water and air quality; and

WHEREAS, the Central Government has notified the standards for discharge/emission of environmental pollutants for various categories of industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is obligatory on the part of industries to install Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) and Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) to comply with the effluent discharge and emission standards as notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder and also to meet the consent conditions granted by State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs); and

WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) vide notification no. GSR No. 656(E) dated 10.09.2021 revised the standards for Tannery sector under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which came into force from 01.07.2022. The revised Standards were communicated to all the SPCBs/PCCs by CPCB vide letter dated 15.07.2022 for its implementation; and

WHEREAS, there is need to promote self-regulation and self- promotion within the industries for complying with the prescribed standards and this can be achieved by the methods like installing Online Effluent and Emission Monitoring Devices; and

WHEREAS, a direction under section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued on 05.02.2014 to all the SPCBs/PCCs for installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System w.r.t. Flow, pH, BOD, COD, and TSS parameters; and

WHEREAS, M/s Avanthi Leathers Ltd., Kambakkam Village, Varadaiahpalem, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, (hereinafter referred as "The Unit") is a Tannery unit and engaged in production of finished leather from imported wet blue hides and skins with consented capacity of 32,500 Sq.ft/day; and

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WHEREAS, the unit (M/s Avanthi Leathers Ltd.) located at Kambakkam Village, Varadaiahpalem, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, was inspected by the officials from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on 28.10.2024 under 'Environmental surveillance of 17 categories of highly pollution potential industries and common facilities' based on real-time OCEMS (Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring System) data programme. The major observations made by the inspecting team are as follows:

i. The Unit and Effluent Treatment Plant were found operational on the day of inspection.
ii. The Combined Consent for Operation (CFO) and Hazardous Waste Authorization (HWA) is issued to the unit by Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) with validity up to 31.03.2027.
iii. The effluent discharge standards prescribed by APPCB in the CFO is lenient than the discharge standards prescribed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & climate change (MoEF&CC) vide notification dated 10.09.2021 for Tannery sector.
iv. The Unit is utilizing 272 KLD of water which is sourced from the nearby pond with the permission obtained from the Forest Department, Chittoor East.
v. The Unit is processing 7.5 tons of wet blue leather per day, with a specific water consumption of 30.6 m3 per ton of hides/skin, which is higher than the prescribed maximum specific water consumption of 20 m3 per ton of hide/skin, as prescribed by MoEF&CC vide Notification dated 10.09.2021 for the Tannery sector.
vi. The waste generated from trimming of leather during the process is stored in Hazardous storage shed along with hazardous waste (dried ETP sludge).
vii. The dried ETP sludge is disposed through TSDF at Nellore and record for the same is maintained.
viii. The wastewater samples were collected from the primary collection tank (ETP inlet), the outlet of the secondary clarifier, and the treated effluent storage tank (ETP outlet) for analysis. The laboratory analysis results of the treated effluent shows that for 06 parameters, the values exceed the notified discharge standards for the tannery sector (notified on 10.09.2021) i.e **BOD**: 380 mg/L (against 20 mg/L); **COD**: 1096 mg/L (against 250 mg/L); **TSS**: 610 mg/L (against 50 mg/L); **TDS**: 8930 mg/L (against 2100 mg/L); **Total Chromium**: 4.71 mg/L (against 2.0 mg/l); and **Hexavalent Chromium**: 0.82 mg/L (against 0.1 mg/L).
ix. The Unit has installed On-line Continuous Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at the final outlet of ETP for measuring, flow, pH, TSS, BOD, COD parameters. The analysis of hourly data of flow meter, pH, TSS, BOD, COD recorded in CPCB RTDMS portal during the period 16/04/2024 to 30/10/2024 indicates that flow meter and analyzer readings were not transmitting data continuously to CPCB RTDMS Portal.
x. The unit has provided display board but information was not updated.

WHEREAS, it is evident from the above observations made by the inspecting team that the Unit is non-complying w.r.t. the following:

i. Notified effluent discharge standards for tannery sector for the parameters BOD, COD, TSS, TDS, Total Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium;
ii. OCEMS is not calibrated and data is not continuously transmitted to CPCB RTDMS portal; and

iii. Hazardous waste (dried ETP sludge) and solid waste generated during the process are not stored separately.

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the above, and in exercise of the powers delegated to the Chairman, CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, notice is served herewith to show cause why the unit i.e. M/s. Avanthi Leathers Ltd., Kambakkam Village, Varadaiahpalem, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh should not be closed till immediate compliance of the following:

1. To ensure proper Operation & Maintenance of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to meet the effluent discharge standards notified by MoEF&CC on 10.09.2021 for the Tannery sector.
2. To submit Adequacy Assessment Report (AAR) of ETP prepared by reputed institute like IIT/NIT/ reputed engineering institute etc. along with augmentation/implementation report of the recommendations made in the said report.
3. To rectify the flow meter and online analyzer for BOD, COD, TSS and pH installed at ETP outlet and ensure uninterrupted connectivity & regular transmission of OCEMS data to CPCB/ APPCB server.
4. To ensure regular Operation & Maintenance and calibration of OCEMS to obtain continuous & reliable results and maintain record for the same.
5. To get amended the Combined Consent to Operate by APPCB in view of the notified discharge standards and maximum specific water consumption prescribed vide notification dated 10.09.2021 for Tannery sector.
6. To ensure Hazardous Waste (dried ETP Sludge) and solid waste generated during process are stored separately and hazardous waste be disposed as per the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
7. To monitor the ground water where the treated effluent is applied on land for irrigation as per the consent condition.
8. To ensure regular updation of information on display board in compliance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order in WP(C) 657 of 1995.

The unit is hereby given an opportunity to file their objections, duly notarized, to the above proposed notice/direction and submit a time bound action plan for compliance of above directions along with documentary evidences within 15 days of receipt of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that you have nothing to say and appropriate action will be taken, in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(AMANDEEP GARG)
CHAIRMAN

Copy to:

1	The Member Secretary Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony Road, Gurunanak Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007	:	For ensuring compliance of the directions, please.
2	The Regional Director Regional Directorate-Chennai Central Pollution Control Board 77-A, 2nd Floors, South Avenue Road Ambattur Industrial Estate, Ambattur Taluk Thiruvallur District, Chennai-600058	:	For Follow up and ensuring compliance of the directions, please.
3	The Joint Secretary (CP Division), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Prithvi Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110003.	:	For kind information, please.
4	The Divisional Head, IT Division, CPCB, Delhi	:	For information and upload the Show Cause Notice at CPCB website, please.
5	The Divisional Head, IPC-VI Division, CPCB, Delhi	:	For information and necessary action, please.

(BHARAT KUMAR SHARMA)
MEMBER SECRETARY