



COMPLIANCE UPDATE

MARCH 2024 | Part 1 of 2

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Intermediaries registered with SEBI under Section 12 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992

SEBI on February 20, 2024 directed all intermediaries to upload FATCA and CRS certifications obtained from clients on to the system of KRAs with effect from July 01, 2024.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit

RBI on February 22, 2024 allowed for extension of the Interest Equalization Scheme for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit (**Scheme**) up to June 30, 2024. The rate of interest equalization shall be 2% for manufacturers and merchant exporters exporting under specified 410 HS lines and 3% for MSME manufacturers exporting under any HS line.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Amendment to Master Direction on Prepaid Payment Instruments

RBI on February 23, 2024 allowed authorized bank and non-bank PPI issuers to issue PPIs for making payments across various public transport systems.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Filing of Supervisory Returns) Directions - 2024

RBI on February 27, 2024 notified Master Direction - Reserve Bank of India (Filing of Supervisory Returns) Directions - 2024. These Master Directions are applicable to:

- All Commercial Banks excluding RRBs
- All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks
- All India Financial Institutions (Exim Bank, NABARD, NHB, SIDBI and NABFID)
- All Non-Banking Financial Companies [excluding Housing Finance Companies (**HFCs**)] and all Asset Reconstruction Companies (**ARCS**)

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

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Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)

▪ Companies (Registration Offices and Fees) Amendment Rules, 2024

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs on February 15, 2024 added Rule 10A in Companies (Registration Offices and Fees) Rules, 2014. As per the amendment:

- The Registrar of the Central Processing Center shall examine or cause to be examined every application or e-form or document required or authorized to be filed or delivered, as provided under sub-Rule (3), for approval, registration or taking on record by the Registrar.
- The Registrar shall take a decision on the application, e-forms or documents within thirty days from the date of its filing excluding the cases in which an approval of the Central Government or the Regional Director or any other competent authority is required.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

▪ Income Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024

CBDT on February 21, 2024 revised the Form ITR-2 adding a new schedule for '*Details of deduction in respect of maintenance including medical treatment of a dependent who is a person with disability*'.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)

▪ Modifications in SEZ Act and Rules for applicability to International Financial Services Center

The Ministry of Finance on February 28, 2024 modified Section 12, Section 13 and Section 15 of Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and Rule 17 of Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 for their applicability to an International Financial Services Center.

(To view Notification, please click [here](#))

Industry-wise updates

Healthcare

▪ [Surrogacy \(Regulation\) Amendment Rules, 2024](#)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on February 21, 2024 amended Form 2 of Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022. The amendment provides that the couple undergoing surrogacy must have both gamete from the intending couple. If the District Medical Board certifies that either spouse needs donor gametes for surrogacy, it's permitted, but the child must have at least one gamete from the intending couple.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Ports & shipping

▪ [Rights of Persons with Disabilities Amendment Rules, 2024](#)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on February 15, 2024 amended Rule 15 of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017. The amendment introduces guidelines for accessibility standards in the port sector, as specified in the Notification of the Ministry of Port Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Transport

▪ [Motor Vehicles \(DRAFT Amendment\) Rules, 2024](#)

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on February 22, 2024 amended Rule 115 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. As per the amendment, type approval for vehicles retrofitted with LPG kits shall be valid for 6 years from the date of issue of such approval and shall be renewed for every 6 years at a time. The Draft Rules are open for objections for a period of 30 Days.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Utilities

▪ [Electricity \(Rights of Consumers\) Amendment Rules](#)

The Ministry of Power on February 22, 2024 amended Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020. The major amendments made are as follows:

- Facilitating easier and faster installation of rooftop solar systems
- Separate connections for electric vehicle charging stations
- New connections and change in existing connections to be obtained faster
- Additional rights for consumers in residential colonies and flats
- Mandatory additional meter in cases of complaints

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

State-wise updates

Andhra Pradesh

- **[APERC \(The Grid Interactive Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic Systems under Net/Gross Metering\) Regulation, 2023](#)**

The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (**APERC**) on February 23, 2024 issued the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (The Grid Interactive Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic Systems under Net/Gross Metering) Regulation, 2023. These regulations apply to all the grid-interactive solar rooftop photovoltaic systems with/without Battery Energy Storage Systems (**BESS**), installed, and commissioned in the areas of Distribution Licensees. The consumer is eligible to install the grid interactive SRTPVS of the rated capacity as specified under these Regulations, a minimum vacant roof area of 10 sq mtr or 100 sq. ft is required for the installation of 1 KWp system. This shall come into force on February 23, 2024.

(To view the Regulations, please click [here](#))

- **[Amendment to Schedule-IV of the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005](#)**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh on February 23, 2024 issued an amendment to Schedule-IV of the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2005 wherein after entry 130, the following entry shall be added: '131. Natural Gas'. This Notification shall come into force with effect from April 01, 2024.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

- **[User manual for license for the user of Milk Analyzer](#)**

The Department of Animal Husbandry on February 07, 2024 issued the user manual for license for the user of milk analyzer whereby in order to apply for the license, the milk analyzer user has to open the AHD login page first and the name of the applicant along with surname, designation of the applicant who is applying for the license, whatsapp mobile number, alternative mobile number, email ID, name of the center, Aadhar number of the user shall be mentioned.

(To view the User Manual, please click [here](#))

Arunachal Pradesh

- **[Draft APSEERC \(Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access \(GEOA\) and Methodology for calculation of Charges\) \(1st Amendment\) Regulations, 2024](#)**

The Arunachal Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (**APSEERC**) on February 12, 2024 issued the Arunachal Pradesh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access (**GEOA**) and Methodology for calculation of Charges) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2024. Key aspects:

- Regulation 14 which states 'Green Energy Open Access Charges' has been substituted
- Regulation 14.5 which states 'other Charges' may be read as Regulation 14.6

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Assam

- **[Suspension of certain provisions of the Shops & Establishment Act, 1971](#)**

The Government of Assam issued a Notification to suspend the operation of Sections 6, 9, 10 and 11 of the Shops & Establishment Act, 1971 throughout the State of Assam during certain festivals for 70 days i.e. on the occasions as mentioned in the table during the year 2024. The shops and establishments will remain open for 70 days subject to the condition that the employees shall be paid compensation for overtime work and for work on weekly off days by the employers concerned.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

- **[Revised VDA rates for workmen employed by contractors in Assam](#)**

The Labour Commissioner of Assam issued a Notification dated February 08, 2024, addressing the revision of Variable Dearness Allowance (**VDA**) rates for workmen employed by and through contractors, not covered under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The VDA rates are adjusted based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index (**CPI**) from July 2023 to December 2023, which is calculated at 2.69%. The Notification outlines the new VDA rates for different categories of workmen, including highly skilled/accountants, skilled (ITI Certificate holders or equivalent/clerical), skilled (other than ITI Certificate holders), semi-skilled, and unskilled workmen. The new rates, are provided in a detailed table, specifying the basic rated amounts, cumulative existing VDA rates, percentage increase, and the new rates per day and per month.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Goa

▪ **Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Goa issued a Bill on February 16, 2024 pertaining to the 'Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024,' which aims to amend the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1974. The Bill encompasses several key amendments, including the introduction of new tax rates for various categories of motor vehicles at the time of registration, simplification of the tax structure, and the repeal of the Goa Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023. The new tax rates are categorized based on the cost of the vehicle, such as 9%, 12%, and 15% tax on the invoice value at the time of registration for vehicles falling within specific cost brackets. Additionally, the Bill proposes a one-time payment of tax on the registration of rent-a-cars and rent-a-bikes, as opposed to the existing yearly tax payment structure.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Goa Land Use (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Goa on 16th February, 2024 introduced the Goa Land Use (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2024. This Bill is aimed at amending the Goa Land Use (Regulation) Act, 1991. The amended section specifies exemptions including the acquisition of land vested in a tenant under the Goa Agricultural Tenancy Act, 1964, by the State for public purposes under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Goa Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Goa on February 16, 2024 issued the Goa Labour Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to further amend the Goa Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1986. In Section 20, which pertains to appointment and power of Secretary, for sub-Section (1), the following sub-Section has been substituted: '(1) The Government shall appoint the Commissioner, Labour and Employment as Secretary of the Board, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Board.'

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Goa issued a bill on 05th February 2024, known as The Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The Bill is aimed at amending the Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control Act, 1968. The amendments proposed include:

- Insertion of new clauses related to 'agreement of leave and license,' 'Deputy Collector,' 'leave and license,' and 'licensee,'
- Substitution concerning the landlord's right to obtain possession
- A new provision is to be added, dealing with the resumption of occupation of the building given on leave and license basis

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Goa Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Goa on 16th February, 2024 proposed the Goa Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which seeks to amend the existing Goa Value Added Tax Act, 2005, extending the timeframe for obtaining a certificate of registration. With the substitution of '192 days' for '90 days,' this legislative initiative aims to streamline tax compliance procedures and enhance regulatory efficiency in the state. This Notification shall be deemed to have come into force from September 21, 2023.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Gujarat

▪ **Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2024**

Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission on February 20, 2024 notified Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Green Energy Open Access) Regulations, 2024. These regulations encompass objectives, definitions, eligibility, application procedures, categorization of open access, nodal agency duties, treatment for current open access consumers, and applying for day-ahead green energy open access transactions.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Gujarat Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control (Revival of Operation and Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Gujarat on February 16, 2024 amended the Gujarat Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control Act, 1947 for its revival and extension till March 31, 2026.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Gujarat Ports (Licensing of Persons Engaged in Loading and Unloading Vessels) Regulations, 2024**

The Government of Gujarat on February 27, 2024 notified the Gujarat Ports (Licensing of Persons Engaged in Loading and Unloading Vessels) Regulations, 2024. The Regulations deal with categories of licenses, criteria of license, validity of license and duties & responsibilities of licensees.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Haryana

▪ **Haryana Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**

The Haryana Green Hydrogen Policy 2024 positions the state as a frontrunner in the burgeoning green hydrogen sector, aiming to produce 250 kilo tons per annum (KTPA) of Green Hydrogen by 2030. This initiative aligns with the National Green Hydrogen Mission and focuses on accelerating the adoption of green hydrogen and its derivatives to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy security, and promote sustainable development. This Notification was published on February 15, 2024. Under this Policy, eligible projects can benefit from various incentives and subsidies, particularly those procuring renewable energy from multiple sources including third-party procurement, captive plants, distribution licensees, and power exchanges. Additionally, the Policy emphasizes the importance of research and development, job creation, and reducing emissions from activities like crop burning by utilizing biomass for green hydrogen production.

(To view the Policy, please click [here](#))

▪ **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Haryana Amendment Bill, 2024**

The Government of Haryana on February 21, 2024 issued the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Haryana Amendment Bill, 2024 to further amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, in its application to the State of Haryana. Key aspects:

- Section 4-A has been inserted which specifies prohibition of hookah bars
- Section 13-A has been inserted which specifies the power to seize hookah bars

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Revision to minimum wages**

The Labour Department, Haryana on February 22, 2024 issued a Notification regarding the minimum wages payable to the workers employed in various categories. Key aspects:

- Increase of 110.10 points in the overall worker's Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Revised minimum wages shall be implemented with effect from January 01, 2024 for various categories of workers
- Increase of 3.46% in the basic wages of various categories of workers in the brick kiln industry

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Himachal Pradesh

▪ **Himachal Pradesh Water Cess on Hydropower Generation (Amendment) Act, 2023**

The Government of Himachal Pradesh on February 15, 2024 issued the Himachal Pradesh Water Cess on Hydropower Generation (Amendment) Act, 2023 to further amend the Himachal Pradesh Water Cess on Hydropower Generation Act, 2023. Key aspects:

- Section 1 which states 'Short title and commencement' has been substituted
- Section 18 which states 'Establishment of the Commission' has been substituted
- Section 34 which states 'Establishment of the fund by the Government' has been substituted

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Himachal Pradesh Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Amendment Act, 2023**

The Government of Himachal Pradesh on February 19, 2024 notified the Himachal Pradesh Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Amendment Act, 2023 to further amend the Himachal Pradesh Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 1995 whereby the definition of 'non-biodegradable material' has been substituted.

(To view the Draft Policy, please click [here](#))

▪ **Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term and Medium-term intra-State Open Access and Related Matters) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2024**

The Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, Shimla (HPERC) on February 15, 2024 notified Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term, and Medium-term intra-State Open Access and Related Matters) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2024 further to amend the Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Grant of Connectivity, Long-term, and Medium-term intra-State Open Access and Related Matters) Regulations, 2010. The following has been stated:

- In Regulation 6, the existing table shall be substituted
- In Regulation 7, the existing table shall be substituted

These regulations shall come into force on February 15, 2024.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Draft Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Hydro Generation Tariff) Regulations, 2024**

The Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (HPERC) on February 23, 2024 issued the Draft Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Hydro Generation Tariff) Regulations, 2024.

Key aspects:

- **Determination of Baseline:** The baseline values (operating and cost parameters) for the base year of the control period shall be determined by the Commission and shall be based on the approved values by the Commission, the latest audited accounts, the estimate of the actuals for the relevant year, prudence check and other factors considered appropriate by the Commission. The Commission may re-determine the baseline values for the base year based on the actual audited accounts of the base year.
- **Segregation of Accounts:** The hydro-generating company shall maintain separate accounts and sub-balance sheets for each of its power plants.

(To view the Draft Regulations, please click [here](#))

Jammu & Kashmir

▪ **Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and the UT of Ladakh (Treatment of Income from Other Business of Transmission Licensees and Distribution Licensees) Regulations, 2024**

The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) on February 28, 2024 published the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and the UT of Ladakh (Treatment of Income from Other Business of Transmission Licensees and Distribution Licensees) Regulations, 2024.

These regulations shall come into force on February 28, 2024 and shall be applicable to all the licensees engaged in the Transmission of electricity and Distribution of electricity in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and the UT of Ladakh.

(To view the Regulations, please click [here](#))

▪ **Excise Policy 2024-2025**

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir issued the Excise Policy 2024-2025 with the following objectives:

- To bring about greater social consciousness and awareness about the harmful effects of consumption of alcoholic beverages and drug abuse
- To encourage the transition from high to low alcoholic content beverages
- To rationalize the number of taxes/duties and other levies to optimize revenues for the common good
- To check bootlegging/smuggling of liquor and narcotic drugs in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir from neighboring States/Union Territories
- To provide the choice of liquor brands and places for consumption to its consumers and a level playing field to all the stakeholders
- To rationalize the production and sale of JK Special Whisky and JK Country Liquor to curb illicit distillation
- Tapping of the full potential of the existing liquor Industry to promote ancillary industries and raising new avenues of employment
- Complete digitalization in liquor manufacturing, distribution and sale from production till retail consumption

(To view the Policy, please click [here](#))

Karnataka

▪ **Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Karnataka on February 21, 2024 issued the Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to further amend the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 wherein Section 94-A, which states 'Regularisation of certain cases of unauthorised occupation by constituting committee etc.' has been amended.

(To view the Amendments, please click [here](#))

▪ **Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The Government of Karnataka on February 21, 2024 published the Karnataka Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 2024 to further amend the Karnataka Stamp Act, 1957 wherein in Section 10A which states 'Payment of stamp duty by cash in certain cases', in sub-Section (1) the words 'or by demand draft or by pay order drawn on a branch of any scheduled bank' and the words 'or upon production of demand draft or pay order as the case may be', shall be omitted.

(To view the Amendments, please click [here](#))

Madhya Pradesh

▪ **MPERC (Power Purchase and Other Matters with respect to conventional fuel based Captive Power Plants) Regulations, (Revision-I) 2009 (Second Amendment)**

The Government of Madhya Pradesh on February 23, 2024 issued the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Purchase and Other Matters with respect to conventional fuel-based Captive Power Plants) Regulations, (Revision-I) 2009 (Second Amendment) to further amend the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulation Commission (Power Purchase and other matters with respect to conventional fuel-based captive power plants) Regulations with the following amendments:

- Regulation 1.5 which states 'Definition of a CPP with respect to own consumption versus sales mix' has been substituted
- 2nd Proviso to Regulation 4.15 which states 'Charges for Stand-by support' has been substituted

(To view the Amendments, please click [here](#))

▪ **Draft Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Fees, Fines and Charges) (Revision-II) Regulations, 2024**

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (**MPERC**) issued the Draft Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (Fees, Fines and Charges) (Revision-II) Regulations, 2024 to further amend the MPERC (Fees, Fines and Charges) (Revision-I) Regulations, 2010.

- The fines and/or charges as ordered by the Commission shall be paid within 30 days of the order of the Commission imposing the fines or charges or within such extended date as may be allowed by the Commission in such order.
- The fines and/or charges shall be payable in the same manner as provided under sub-Clause (ii) of Clause 3 of these Regulations.
- If the fines and/or charges ordered by the Commission are not paid within the specified time, they shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

(To view the Draft Regulations, please click [here](#))

▪ **Extension of the control period for the tariff for procurement of power by Distribution Licensees generated from MSW**

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission, (**MPERC**) issued an extension of the control period for the tariff order dated September 21, 2021, for procurement of power by Distribution Licensees generated from Municipal Solid Waste (**MSW**) based power projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The control period is due to expire on March 31, 2024.

The Commission is in the process of fixation of norms and determination of tariff for the next control period which shall take some time to finalize. The Commission decides to extend the control period until further orders. All other terms and conditions of the tariff order dated September 21, 2021, shall remain unchanged.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Extension of control period for procurement of power by Distribution Licensees generated from biomass-based power projects**

Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (**MPERC**), vide Notification dated February 16, 2024 extended the control period for the procurement of power by Distribution Licensees generated from biomass-based power projects in the State till further orders and all other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Extension of the period for the tariff order for procurement of power by Distribution Licensees generated from biogas-based power projects**

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (**MPERC**) on February 13, 2024 issued an order regarding the extension of the order dated December 07, 2021, related to the period for the tariff order for procurement of power by Distribution Licensees generated from biogas-based power projects. It has been decided to extend the control period, which was supposed to expire on March 31, 2024 until further orders. It further states that all other terms and conditions of the tariff order dated December 07, 2021, shall remain unchanged.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Extension of the control period for the tariff order for the procurement of power from Small Hydro Power Projects in Madhya Pradesh**

The Madhya Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (**MPERC**) on February 13, 2024 issued a Notification regarding the extension of the control period for the tariff order for procurement of power from Small Hydro Power Projects in Madhya Pradesh. The Commission passed a tariff order on December 21, 2018, for procurement of power by distribution licensees generated from Small Hydro Power Projects in Madhya Pradesh. The control period is due to expire on March 31, 2024. The Commission is in the process of fixation on norms and determination of tariffs for the next control period which shall take some time to finalize. In view of the above, the Commission decides to extend the control period until further orders. All other terms and conditions of the tariff order dated December 21, 2018, shall remain unchanged.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Maharashtra

▪ **MERC (Renewable Purchase Obligation, its Compliance and Implementation of Renewable Energy Certificate Framework) First Amendment) Regulations, 2024**

The Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (**MERC**) on February 23, 2024 issued the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Renewable Purchase Obligation, its Compliance and Implementation of Renewable Energy Certificate Framework) First Amendment) Regulations, 2024 to further amend the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (Renewable Purchase Obligation, its Compliance, and Implementation of Renewable Energy Certificate Framework) First Amendment) Regulations, 2019. The following definitions have been inserted:

- Distributed RPO
- Other RPO
- Wind RPO
- Regulation 6 which states 'Operating Period' has been substituted

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Special Permits and Licenses (Amendment) Rules, 2024**

The Government of Maharashtra on February 15, 2024 issued the Special Permits and Licences (Amendment) Rules, 2024 to further amend the Special Permits and Licences Rules, 1952. Key aspects:

- In Form D, which states 'Form of application for a licence to sell 6mild liquor, or 6 [wines or both]', in the heading for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted.
- In Form E, which states '[Licence for sale of Mild Liquor 11 [or wines or both] 9 [(Beer and wine) 'on' inverted commas 'and' 'off' the premises] of a hotel/restaurant/canteen/club':
 - o In the heading, for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted
 - o For the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted
 - o In condition no. 1, for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted
 - o In condition no. 2, for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted
 - o In condition no. 3, for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted
 - o In condition no. 4, for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted
 - o In condition no. 5(b), for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted
 - o In condition no. 10, for the words 'mild liquor or wines or both' the words 'mild liquor, fermented liquor, craft beer and wines or any of these' shall be substituted

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Maharashtra Potable Liquor (Fixation of Maximum Retail Prices) (Amendment) Rules, 2024**

The Government of Maharashtra on February 15, 2024 published the Maharashtra Potable Liquor (Fixation of Maximum Retail Prices) (Amendment) Rules, 2024 to further amend the Maharashtra Potable Liquor (Fixation of Maximum Retail Prices) Rules, 1996 wherein Rule 5, which states 'Regulation of Maximum Retail Price of Potable Liquor', has been amended.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Minimum wages and special allowance applicable in SEEPZ for electronics, gems and jewellery sector in Mumbai**

Office of Development Commissioner SEEPZ, Mumbai vide Circular No./Lab/05/2024, has issued Circular regarding minimum wages and special allowance applicable in SEEPZ for electronics, gems and jewellery sector with effect from January 01, 2024.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

▪ **Penal fee for violating the Combined Consent Regime prescribed under the Air/Water Act**

The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) on February 27, 2024 issued a circular regarding the Amnesty Scheme for Penal Fees for violating the Combined Consent Regime with reference to a Circular dated July 12, 2022, for penal fee for occupiers violating the Combined Consent Regime prescribed under the Water and Air Acts.

Key aspects:

- This amnesty scheme is not for those units/industries who have already paid the penalty.
- This amnesty scheme will apply to those industries that will submit online applications for combined consent within 3 months period from March 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024.
- All the applications received in this period will only be considered. Industry applying under the amnesty scheme will have to pay the penal fees at a time.
- Applications already pending with the Board that have not paid the Penal Fees will also be considered, provided they pay the penal fees as per the Amnesty Scheme within 3-month period from March 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Meghalaya

▪ **Modified and revised of the rate of tax on diesel oil, other combustion oils**

The Government of Meghalaya on February 09, 2024 revised the tax rate on diesel oil and other combustion oils to 5% or INR 8.50 per litre.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Nagaland

▪ **Nagaland Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 2024**

The Government of Nagaland has notified draft of Nagaland Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Rules, 2024. The Draft Rules will be open for objection for 30 days.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

NCT of Delhi

▪ **Commission of Air Quality Management in NCR issued amendments to the Direction on the regulated use of DG Sets**

The Commission of Air Quality Management in NCR on February 22, 2024 issued amendments to the Direction on the regulated use of DG Sets. Direction was issued by the Commission under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Area, Act, 2021, directing for the adoption of the Schedule for regulated operations of DG sets (only as a backup against regular power supply failures) across all sectors in NCR including industrial, commercial, residential and office establishments etc.

As certified Retrofitted Emission Control Devices (RECD) are now also available for 61 to 125 KW capacity range of DG sets, Sr. No 4 & 5 in said Direction are hereby amended as under:

- The DG set 125 KW to less than 800 KW is now amended to 61 KW to 800 KW
- The DG set 19 KW to less than 125 KW is now amended to 19 KW to 61 KW

(To view the Amendments, please click [here](#))

Odisha

▪ [Operational Guidelines for interest subsidy under Odisha MSME Development Policy-2022](#)

The Government of Odisha on February 26, 2024 issued Operational Guidelines for Interest subsidy under Odisha MSME Development Policy-2022. The eligibility criteria for the policy refers to new enterprises with investment in plant & machinery up to INR 50 crore, except the units/activities listed under Annexure-II of Odisha MSME Development Policy-2022, amended from time to time.

(To view the Guidelines, please click [here](#))

▪ [MoLE appointed a date on which certain provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 will be enforced in all areas of the Nabrangpur district, in the State of Odisha](#)

The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) on February 20, 2024 appointed a date on which certain provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 will be enforced in all areas of the Nabrangpur district, in the State of Odisha. The appointed date is March 01, 2024.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Punjab

▪ [Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission \(Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters\) \(14th Amendment\) Regulations, 2024](#)

The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission issued a draft Notification dated February 07, 2024 detailing the amendments to the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) Regulations, 2014. These Regulations will be known as Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code and Related Matters) (14th Amendment) Regulations, 2024. Key aspects:

- The first major amendment outlines the process for granting feasibility clearance to an applicant/consumer by the distribution licensee within a specified timeframe. It also addresses the consequences if the clearance is not granted within the stipulated period, including the payment of interest by the distribution licensee to the applicant.
- Another significant amendment introduces separate queues for maintaining seniority in respect of applications for different categories of supply connections, based on the requirement for augmentation or extension of distribution infrastructure. The Notification also details amendments and introduces provisions regarding the deposit of applicable charges and the processing of cases where consumers fail to comply with the demand notice.

(To view the Amendment Regulations, please click [here](#))

Uttarakhand

▪ [Exemption of Fitness Fees up to January 21, 2025 for 15-year-old vehicles](#)

The revision in the rates of fitness test fees for vehicles older than 15 years has been postponed for 1 year from the date of issue of Notification i.e. till February 21, 2025. During this period, the rates of fitness fees will remain as prevalent before the said revision done by the Government of India, but these rates will be payable after the next 1 year as per the revision done by the Government of India.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

Uttar Pradesh

▪ [Variable Dearness Allowance \(VDA\) for all categories of workers employed in engineering factories](#)

The Government of Uttar Pradesh, vide Notification dated, February 15, 2024 notified regarding the Variable Dearness Allowance for all categories of workers employed in engineering factories employing 50 or more than 50 workers in the state. The All-India Consumer Price Index for workers employed in engineering units will be at 239 points from July 2023 to December 2023 and the average point of the index will be 400 from February 01, 2024 to July 31, 2024. Variable Dearness Allowance will be applicable to category workers.

(To view the Notification, please click [here](#))

ABOUT US

UnComplycate is an end-to-end compliance and contract management solutions provider that integrates domain experience with IT-enabled implementation, monitoring and management protocols.

With more than thirty years' experience in helping clients discharge their compliance obligations, we have developed a repository of significant knowledge and practical experience in advising and assisting businesses on their regulatory compliance, litigation management, notice and contract management and other attendant requirements. We create bespoke products for clients that include, among other things, an audit of the functions of the company, offering technology-enabled platforms that provide solutions for effective control over the compliance and contract management functions. These services are not limited by geography and can be seamlessly extended to all operating sites of the client.

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