F.No.23/131/2024-HSM
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(HSM Division)
*****

2nd Floor, Jal Block
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi -110 003

Date: 06th December, 2024

Subject: Consideration of Spent Sulphuric generated from LABSA & Non- LABSA process as by-product as per the provisions of Hazardous & Other Waste Rules, 2016 - reg.

References:

i. Request of M/s Gujarat Dyestuff Manufacturers Association (GDMA) and Ankleshwar Industries Association (AIA) for permitting the use of Spent Sulphuric Acid for manufacturing of Single Super Phosphate (SSP).
ii. Request of M/s Indian Phosphate Limited, Udaipur Request to amend the Classification of Spent Sulphuric acid generated from LABSA process as "Hazardous Waste" to "By product" in new SOP issued by CPCB and
iii. Appeal of All India Federation of Soaps, Detergents & Homecare Products' Manufacturers on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with respect to Utilization of Spent/ Diluted Sulphuric Acid produced during the production of Linear Alkyl Benzene Sulphonic Acid (LABSA).

This pertains to several representations received in the Ministry on the subject mentioned above under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.

2. The representations were referred to the Technical Review Committee (TRC) constituted in the Ministry for examination. TRC had a deliberation on the matter in its 87th meeting, 88th meeting and 89th meeting held on 20th May, 2024, 20th August, 2024 and 23rd October, 2024 respectively. After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended the following:

a. Utilization of Spent Sulphuric generated from LABSA process in manufacturing SSP:

The committee noted that the spent sulfuric acid generated in the manufacturing of LABSA is not the primary or intended product and has hazardous characteristic. For it not to be a hazardous waste, it is necessary to demonstrate unequivocally that it has a commercial use as such, without any pre-treatment. It is clear that spent acid with strength>70% and TOC <200 mg/l is used as such in the superphosphate industry as it is, but whether such use is commercially viable will depend on the overall demand and supply situation of spent sulphuric acid. Further, the commercial viability may be different for different units and State/UT, depending on the transport cost to the potential user units.

CPCB has already issued framework regarding identification/classification of materials generated from Industrial Processes as Wastes or By-products The committee after detailed deliberations recommended that the units may apply to the concerned SPCBs to classify the Spent Sulphuric Acid (generated from LABSA process) as "by-product" and the SPCBs may examine the application based on the framework issued by CPCB and may take appropriate decisions on case to case basis.

However, the committee also opined whether it is classified as a hazardous waste or by-product, there should be proper monitoring of the movement and the committee therefore suggests the following:

i. Spent sulphuric acid should have strength >70%, TOC<200 mg/litre and such other characteristics as specified by CPCB.
ii. Sales to be made only to end users and no sales to be allowed to traders.
iii. Submission of details of end users to whom the spent sulphuric acid is to be supplied and verification of the same by the SPCB/PCC of the requirement of such end users, especially their capacity to use such spent sulphuric acid purchased.
iv. The movement of sulphuric acid from Producer to End User as per procedure prescribed by SPCB/PCC and under GPS tracking.
v. Quarterly report of sulphuric acid produced and supplied by a unit to end user supported by GST invoices and e-way bills should be submitted/uploaded on the portal of concerned SPCB/PCC.
vi. Such other conditions for environmentally safe handling as may be considered necessary by the SPCB/PCC for both the generating and using facilities.

TRC further recommended that in case of such companies where there is captive utilization of the Spent Sulphuric Acid, since there is no requirement of GST invoice and there may not be movement under E-way bills, the SPCB/PCC may ensure that utilization of Spent Sulphuric Acid is in the stoichiometric proportion of the generation and with a record of proper material balance.

b. ***Utilization of Spent Sulphuric (generated from Non-LABSA processes) in manufacturing SSP:***

In case of GDMA & AIA representations, the committee recommended that the applicants may set up study as per TOR given by TEC (Technical Evaluation Committee) of CPCB. Further, TRC concurred with the recommendation of said TEC (in its 38th meeting held on 14th March, 2024) for a temporary conditional permission to conduct the long term study for a maximum period of 24 months to the unit carrying out such long term study, provided the study is initiated within two months. Committee asked the industries to work in coordination with CPCB regarding the same.

3. The matter has been examined in the Ministry and the recommendations of the TRC are agreed to.

4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Ved Prakash Mishra)
Joint Secretary

To,

1. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi -110 032.
2. Member Secretaries of All SPCBs/PCCs (as per list)

Copy to:

1. M/s The Gujarat Dyestuff Manufacturers association, 8th floor, Karma Building, Near Mahalaxmi Cross Road, Paldi, Ahemdabad - 380007, Gujarat. Email ID- gdma.gujarat@gmail.com
2. M/s Ankleshwar Industries Association, Plot no.618-619, GIDC Industrial Estate, Ankleshwar-393002, Gujarat. Email ID- info@aiaindia.org
3. M/s Indian Phosphate Limited, Plot 5056, Village-Umarda, Udaipur-313015, Rajasthan. Email ID- accounts@indianphosphate.com
4. M/s All India Federation of Soaps, Detergents & Homecare Products' Manufacturers, 17 Crooked Lane – 700069, Kolkata, West Bengal. Email ID- allindiadetergentsfederation@gmail.com