

CORPORATE CONNECT

1. Background

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) notified the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2026 (“**Amended Rules**”) vide notification G.S.R. 826(E) dated 21st September 2026, further amending the Legal Metrology (**Packaged Commodities**) Rules, 2011 (“**Packaged Commodities Rules**”). The Amended Rules have been issued under Section 52(1) read with clauses (j) and (q) of Section 52(2) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

The Amended Rules introduce a specific labelling requirement for soap, shampoo, toothpaste, other cosmetics and toiletries, requiring products of non-vegetarian origin to bear a red or brown dot and products of vegetarian origin to bear a green dot at the top of the principal display panel. The amendment also omits the existing Rule 6(8), which had separately prescribed the vegetarian/non-vegetarian marking requirement for such products.

The Amended Rules have come into force with effect from 21st September 2026, being the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Overview of key amendments under the Amended Rules:

- a. **Introduction of labelling requirement for cosmetics and toiletries**

The Amended Rules amend Rule 6(4A) of the Packaged Commodities Rules by inserting a new clause (d). Accordingly, in the case of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, other cosmetics and toiletries, the following symbols are required to be displayed:

(i) Products of non-vegetarian origin: A red or brown dot; and

(ii) Products of vegetarian origin: A green dot.

The relevant dot is required to be displayed at the top of the principal display panel of the package.

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b. Scope of Products Covered

The amended requirement expressly applies to: (i) Soap; (ii) Shampoo; (iii) Toothpaste; (iv) Other cosmetics; and (v) Toiletries.

Accordingly, the amendment is relevant to businesses manufacturing, packing, importing or marketing packaged products falling within these categories, to the extent the products are covered by the Packaged Commodities Rules.

c. Replacement of existing provision under Rule 6(8)

The Amended Rules omit Rule 6(8) of the Packaged Commodities Rules. Prior to the amendment, Rule 6(8) specifically provided that every package containing soap, shampoos, toothpastes and other cosmetics and toiletries was required to bear, at the top of its principal display panel, a red/brown dot for products of non-vegetarian origin and a green dot for products of vegetarian origin.

The Fourth Amendment Rules therefore remove Rule 6(8) as a standalone provision and incorporate substantially the same substantive marking requirement under Rule 6(4A)(d) of the Packaged Commodities Rules.

In view of the above, businesses engaged in the manufacture, import, packaging or sale of the affected products should review their existing packaging and labelling practices and assess whether any changes are required to ensure compliance with the amended requirements.



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