



industrial  
permitted  
It is not enough

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46. Another aspect that has been brought to our notice is the malpractice arising out of purported import of some permitted items.

47. From the submissions of Mr. Parikh and Mr. Joshi appearing for Container Corporation of India, it appears that unscrupulous traders in the garb of importing used oil or furnace oil, in fact, import waste oil which is a banned item. They also Illegally import zinc wastes despite it being not permissible except in case where more than 65% of zinc can be recovered from the wastes.

48. Having regard to above, we direct that besides other action, when illegal import of hazardous waste takes place due to non-fulfilment of the requisite conditions required under the Rules, an enquiry should be conducted and appropriate action taken against concerned officer/officers of department responsible therein and, if necessary, a specific provision to that effect can be incorporated in Rules, wherever needed.

49. In respect of collection and transportation of used oil from different sources, authorities shall ensure that the same are sold to registered refiners or recycler and they give an undertaking to refine or recycle in terms of the Rules.

50. Reverting now to the issue of incinerators it is to be kept in view, as observed by the HPC that incineration is the most important treatment method for the destruction of all high calorific and highly toxic wastes. High temperature incineration at 12000 degree celcius mineralises (breaks down into basis non-toxic components) all kinds of organic matter. Destruction efficiencies of effectively 99.99% of toxic compounds with no generation of persistent organic pollutants should be the prima criteria for design of such disposal systems. It has further observed that in addition, while designing the disposal system, relevant operating parameters for example temperature, residence time and turbulence should be considered. On inspection it was found by HPC that barring a few, most of the incinerators are mere combustion chambers or industrial boilers where the maximum temperature is around 500/550 degree C, which is much too low. Often they are not equipped with adequate air pollution control devices and all types of wastes, including non-chlorinated the chlorinated hydrocarbons, being burnt in the so-called incinerators. In the view of the HPC such incinerators, rather than destroying the hazardous constituent, actually succeed in generating toxic gases. There seems to be an urgent need to develop the design criteria for incinerators to safeguard the environments so as to have proper and efficient working of incinerators close to the place of generation of hazardous wastes.