

**DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 5 OF
THE
ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT,
1986
(CENTRAL ACT, 29 OF 1986)
REG. PLASTER OF PARIS (PoP) IDOLS**

***DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT,
1986 (CENTRAL ACT, 29 OF 1986)***

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- ◆ Directions issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding PoP Idols, 2008;
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Department of Science, Technology & Environment

Directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(As amended till 02/08/2010)

DIRECTIONS UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE ENVIRONMENT (PROTECTION) ACT, 1986 (CENTRAL ACT, 29 OF 1986).

Whereas, it has been brought to the notice of the Government of Goa, that several Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols are being imported from neighbouring states for sale in Goa during the annual Ganesh Chaturthi festival;

Whereas, such PoP idols are put up for display and sale in various permanent establishments and other temporary establishments / “Chitrashallas” across the state during the annual Ganesh Chaturthi festival;

Whereas, such PoP idols are made from hemi hydrated calcium sulphate manufactured by calcination process and such PoP idols when immersed in water, does not dissolve or disintegrate fast, thereby causing irreversible environmental effects on the riverrine / coastal ecology or the eco-system of any water body, which in turn causes adverse environmental effects;

Whereas, the chemical paints, colours and dyes applied for such PoP idols contain poisonous chemicals / elements like Mercury, Zinc Oxide, Chromium, Lead, Cadmium etc. which causes harmful effects to marine / aquatic life, which when consumed by humans, leads to the cause of formation of cancer and other diseases including respiratory ailments, skin infections etc. The PoP also contains chemicals / elements like Gypsum, Sulphur, Potassium and Magnesium which causes harmful affects to aquatic and marine life (flora & fauna) and in turn causes harmful health effects, if such aquatic / marine life are consumed by human beings;

Whereas, Government of Goa, taking into consideration the public health and the likely effects on the environment of the State of Goa, is of the view that such PoP idols should not be sold or used in any part in the State of Goa;

Whereas, it is expedient and in public interest, that Government of Goa issues such directions to ban the manufacture, import and sale of such PoP idols in the State of Goa;

And whereas, it would be appropriate to issue such directions to various Departments, District Level Authorities and Local Authorities, to take such measures as listed, to ensure that manufacture, import and sale of PoP idols in the State is stopped forthwith;

Now therefore, by virtue of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; vide Notification No. S. O. 881 (E) dated 22 / 09 / 1988, by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India; the Government of Goa hereby directs

- (a) Commissioner (Excise) to check the entry of vehicles / Goods carriers entering the State carrying such PoP idols as its cargo, prevent the entry of the vehicle and divert the same back to the source, failing which to attach the vehicle / goods carrier and hand it over to the Police Authorities at the nearest Police Check Post / Police Station.
- (b) Director (Transport) to check the entry of vehicles / Goods carriers entering the State carrying such PoP idols as its cargo, prevent the entry of the vehicle and divert the same back to the source, failing which to attach the vehicle / goods carrier and hand it over to the Police Authorities at the nearest Police Check Post / Police Station.
- (c) Director General of Police, to issue relevant directions to the Police Officers at the Police Check Post / Police Station, to take appropriate action against the offenders reported by the officials of Excise Department and Transport Department. Also in case of transport of such PoP idols by rail, the Police Officers should check the cargo on arrival and ensure that the same is not allowed to exit from the Railway Station.
- (d) Commissioner (Commercial Taxes) to ensure that all permanent and temporary licenced establishments in the State do not conduct any sale of PoP idols during Ganesh Chaturthi festival, failing which the commercial licences permitting the sale and registration of such establishments shall be cancelled forthwith.
- (e) Director (Municipal Administration) & Director (Panchayats) to issue relevant directions to all Municipal Councils / Corporation and Village Panchayats, directing them not to grant any licences to such establishments / "Chitrashalla's" who conduct display and sale of PoP idols, during Ganesh Chaturthi festival season. An undertaking should be taken from each such establishments / "Chitrashalla's" that they shall not display or sell such PoP idols failing which the Chief Officers of the Municipal Council / Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation / Secretary of Village Panchayat, shall forthwith cancel the licence granted for the said establishment / "Chitrashalla's" and arrange for its immediate closure. Director (Panchayats) to issue relevant instructions to Block Development Officers, to monitor the aforesaid directions.
- (f) District Collectors and Additional Collectors of both Districts to enforce the above directions by issuing relevant instructions to Dy. Collectors / Mamlatdars from monitoring and enforcement of the directions and to file such complaint against any such violator before the appropriate Court under relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and any other Act / rules as applicable. They are also required to conduct inspections and order closure of such establishments / "Chitrashalla's" who continue to conduct display and sale of such PoP idols.

- (g) Director (Industries, Trade & Commerce) to issue relevant directions to all industries / manufacturing units registered in the State to stop manufacture of PoP idols / products, failing which to cancel the registration of such Industry / Unit.
- (h) Member Secretary, Goa State Pollution Control Board to inspect and verify the various industries / units registered in the State and issue directions to stop manufacture of PoP idols /products in State of Goa, failing which to withdraw consent to operate and issue appropriate closure directions.
- [(i) The respective Incharge of Police Station/Police Inspector's or any other Police Officer not below the rank of Police Sub Inspector, within his jurisdiction, upon being informed by any of the Authorities mentioned herein above from (a) to (h) or suo motu, about the manufacturing, procurement, stocking, display, sale and transportation of PoP idols within the jurisdiction of the Police Station; shall confiscate such PoP idols and seal such premises used to manufacture, stock, display or sale of PoP idols, attach the vehicle used for transportation and further take action to prosecute the violators in terms of section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.]¹**

By Order and in the name of the
Governor of Goa
sd/-
(Michael M. D'Souza)
Director / Ex-Officio Jt. Secy. (STE)

NOTE: The principal directions were issued vide No No.3-108-2005/STE-DIR/620 dated 24th July, 2008 and published in Official Gazette of Goa, Series III No. 18 dated 31/07/2008 **and amended**
vide:-

- (1) Addendum No. No.3-108-2005/STE-DIR/877 dated 02nd August, 2010 published in Official Gazette Series III No 20 dated 12/08/2010;

(1) In the said directions, after para (h), new para (i) is inserted as at 1 above (Series III No.20 dated 12/08/2010)

OFFICIAL GAZETTE

Government of Goa

SERIES III NO.18

30th JULY, 2008

Department of Science, Technology & Environment.

Directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (Central Act, 29 of 1986)

No.3-108-2005/STE-DIR/620

Whereas, it has been brought to the notice of the Government of Goa, that several Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols are being imported from neighbouring states for sale in Goa during the annual Ganesh Chaturthi festival;

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**By Order and in the name of the
Governor of Goa**

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