

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HOME (POLICE) DEPARTMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dated Shillong, the 26th November, 2013

No.HPL.116/2008/Pt/133 - In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 18.07.2013 passed in WP(Crl.) 129 of 2006 Laxmi vs. Union of India and others, it is hereby brought to the notice of the general public, which includes individuals, educational and research institutions, hospitals, industries, Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings or sellers that the State Government has issued an order vide No. HPL.116/2008/Pt./120 dt.23.09.2013 that seeks to regulate the sale of following acids and corrosive substances:

- (i) Acetic acid (beyond 25% concentration by weight);
- (ii) Acetic Anhydride;
- (iii) Sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4) (beyond 5% concentration by weight);
- (iv) Hydrochloric acid (HCl) (beyond 5% concentration by weight);
- (v) Phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4);
- (vi) Hydrofluoric acid (HF);
- (vii) Perchloric acid ($HClO_4$);
- (viii) Formic acid (beyond 10% concentration by weight);
- (ix) Hydrocyanic acid except substances containing less than 0.1 per cent weight in weight of hydrocyanic acid;
- (x) Hydrochloric acid, except substances containing less than 5 per cent weight in weight of hydrochloric acid;
- (xi) Nitric acid, except substances containing less than 5 per cent weight in weight of nitric acid;
- (xii) Oxalic acid;
- (xiii) Perchloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate);
- (xiv) Potassium hydroxide except substances containing less than 2 per cent weight in weight of potassium hydroxide;
- (xv) Sodium hydroxide except substances containing less than 2 per cent weight in weight of sodium hydroxide;
- (xvi) Hydrogen peroxide (beyond 50% concentration by weight);
- (xvii) Formaldehyde (beyond 25% concentration by weight);
- (xviii) Phenol (beyond 3% concentration by weight);
- (xix) Sodium Hypochlorite Sol.

2. The afore-mentioned Government order stipulates as follows:

- (i) Over the counter sale of acid is completely prohibited unless the seller maintains a log/register recording the sale of acid which shall contain the details of the person(s) to whom acid(s) is/are sold, the quantity sold, and the address of the person to whom it is sold etc.
- (ii) No acid shall be sold to any person who is below 18 years of age.
- (iii) All sellers shall sell acid only after the buyer has shown:
 - (a) a photo ID issued by the Government which also has the address of the person.
 - (b) specific reason/purpose for procuring acid.
- (iv) All stocks of acid must be declared by the seller with the concerned District Magistrate or Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), as the case may be, within 15 days of this order.
- (v) In case if any undeclared stock of acid is detected, the concerned District Magistrate / SDM will confiscate the stock and suitably impose fine on such sellers up to Rs.50,000/-.
- (vi) The concerned District Magistrate / SDM may impose fine up to Rs.50,000/- on any person who commits breach of any of the above directions.

3. The order further stipulates that the educational institutions, research laboratories, hospitals, Government Departments and the departments of Public Sector Undertakings, who are required to keep and store acid, shall follow the following guidelines:

- (i) A register of usage of acid shall be maintained and the same shall be filled with the concerned District Magistrate / SDM.
- (ii) A person shall be made accountable for possession and safe keeping of acid in their premises.
- (iii) The acid shall be stored under the supervision of this person and there shall be compulsory checking of the students / personnel leaving the laboratories / place of storage where acid is used.

4. All the District Magistrates and Sub Divisional Magistrate shall be responsible for taking appropriate action in the event of breach/default/violation of the above directions, within their respective jurisdictions.

5. All the buyers and sellers of acids and corrosive substances shall follow the above directions scrupulously.

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Home (Police) Department
