

*Government Notice No. 141 of 2026***THE CENTRAL WATER AUTHORITY ACT****Regulations made by the Central Water Board, with the approval of the Minister, under section 49 of the Central Water Authority Act**

1. These regulations may be cited as the Central Water Authority (Dry Season) Regulations 2026.
2. In these regulations –
 - “domestic consumer” means a person to whom the Authority has agreed to supply potable water for domestic purposes;
 - “domestic purpose” has the same meaning as in the Central Water Authority (Water Supply for Domestic Purposes) Regulations 2011;
 - “non-domestic purpose” has the same meaning as in the Central Water Authority (Water Supply for Non-Domestic Purposes) Regulations 2011;
 - “Water Resources Monitoring Committee” means the Committee set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, where recommendations are made and decisions are taken with regard to water allocation.
3. No person shall, without reasonable excuse –
 - (a) use or permit the use of domestic water for any non-essential purpose or in a wasteful manner;
 - (b) use water intended for use for domestic purpose, non-domestic purpose or from a watercourse –

- (i) to wash a vehicle;
- (ii) to wash a driveway, pavement or building or part thereof;
- (iii) to water a hedge, lawn or garden; or
- (iv) to fill or refill a swimming pool,

through a hosepipe, sprinkler, pressure washer or any similar device or apparatus, in a wasteful manner.

4. No person shall, without reasonable excuse –

- (a) carry out sugar cane irrigation and any other irrigation by abstracting water from a surface reservoir or watercourse which feeds a reservoir; or
- (b) abstract water from any watercourse from which an intake for a containerised pressure filter has been installed.

5. (1) Any person, having a legal entitlement for a right to use water from a watercourse, may abstract water from the said watercourse that would otherwise discharge into the sea subject to that person notifying the Director of the Water Resources Commission of –

- (a) the abstraction location;
- (b) the daily estimated volume to be extracted;
- (c) the time at which the abstraction will be done and its duration; and
- (d) the purpose of the abstraction.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph (1), the Director may impose such conditions as he considers necessary.

6. Any person who contravenes these regulations shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction –

- (a) in the case of a domestic consumer, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years;
- (b) in any other case, be liable to a fine not exceeding 200,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

7. The Central Water Authority (Dry Season) Regulations 2022 is revoked.

8. These regulations shall come into operation on 10 August 2026.

Made by the Central Water Board on 4 August 2026 and approved by the Minister on 7 August 2026.
