The Competition Commission of India (CCI) notifies the CCI (Commitment) Amendment Regulations, 2026

BACKGROUND

In March 2024, the commitments framework under the Indian competition regime was operationalized through the publication of the CCI (Commitment) Regulations, 2024 (**Commitment Regulations**) and the Government's notification of Section 48B of the Competition Act, 2002 (**Competition Act**), which was introduced through the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023. Under the commitments mechanism, a party against whom the CCI has initiated an inquiry into an alleged contraventions of Section 3(4) or Section 4 of the Competition Act, may avail the commitments mechanism provided the Director General (**DG**) has not issued its investigation report.

With a view to streamline the process, the CCI identified certain issues relating to timelines, rectification of defects, adjustment of fees, and invalid applications and published draft amendments to the Commitment Regulations (**Draft Amendments**) for stakeholder comments. The Draft Amendments broadly proposed: (i) extending the timelines for filing a commitment application; (ii) clarifying the procedure for rectification of defects; (iii) extending the timelines for placement of the commitment application before the CCI; (iv) extending the overall timeline for the commitments process.

The CCI received feedback from 15 stakeholders across various sectors who largely welcomed the proposed changes, particularly the extension of timelines. Notably, the CCI rejected suggestions to permit commitment applications at any stage before submission of the DG's investigation report and to dispense with the outer 180 working day limit for completion of the commitment proceedings. Against this backdrop, on August 18, 2026, the CCI notified the CCI (Commitment) Amendment Regulations, 2026 (**Amendment Regulations**).

AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMITMENT REGULATIONS

- The key amendments included in the Commitment Regulations are set out below:

  - *Extension of filing deadline*. The timeline for filing a commitment application, following receipt of the CCI's *prima facie* order under Section 26(1) of the Competition Act has been **extended from 45 days to 60 days**.

  - *Extension of procedural timelines*. The timeline for placing a complete commitment application before the CCI for preliminary consideration has been **increased from 7 working days to 15 working days** from receipt of the application. The overall timeline for conclusion of commitment proceedings has also been **extended from 130 working days to 180 working days**.

POTENTIAL IMPLICATION:

The extension of the timeline for filing a commitment application from 45 to 60 days following receipt of the CCI's prima facie order, coupled with a further 30-day period during which a delayed application may be filed subject to the CCI's condonation, provides potential applicants with greater flexibility to formulate their strategy. However, given that the application must still be filed at a relatively early stage of the investigation, the extended timeline alone may not necessarily drive greater uptake of the commitments mechanism, and this will depend on factors including outcomes in ongoing commitment proceedings.

- The Amendment Regulations have also brought certain clarificatory changes concerning (i) clearance of defects, in particular, adjustment of filing fees; (ii) terminology referring to parties and their authorized representatives; and (iii) updating references to the CCI (General) Regulations, 2024 (which replaced the CCI (General) Regulations, 2009).

KEY TAKEAWAY

In its 257th Report, presented in July 2026, the Rajya Sabha Committee on Subordinate Legislation (**RS Committee**) noted the CCI's monitoring of the settlements and commitments framework and recommended periodic review of the CCI's regulatory architecture. Against this backdrop and given the short period since the commitments mechanism was operationalized, the amendments to the Commitment Regulations appear to reflect the CCI's effort to address procedural roadblocks and make the process more efficient. In light of the RS Committee's recommendations, the CCI may also review and refine other aspects of its regulatory architecture to improve the efficiency and overall effectiveness of its enforcement efforts.

We hope you have found this information useful. For any queries/clarifications please write to us at insights@elp-in.com or write to our authors:

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