

COMMUNIQUÉ

Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020

The public is hereby reminded that by virtue of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 no person shall possess, use, distribute, sell, export, import, manufacture or supply a non-biodegradable plastic bag, except for the following non-biodegradable exempt plastic bags:

- (a) those designed to be used for the disposal of waste, including quarantine and clinical waste;
- (b) those designed to be used for the purpose of agriculture;
- (c) those designed to be used for medical purposes;
- (d) those designed to be used for the purpose of sampling or analysis;
- (e) those constituting or forming an integral part of, the packaging in which goods, materials or products are sealed prior to sale on the local market or for export; and
- (f) transparent re-sealable bags with security tamper used by a passenger to contain liquids, aerosols or gels at an airport or on board of an aircraft or carried by a transfer passenger.

Considering the difficulties being encountered to comply with the labelling requirements on exempt plastic bags which are meant for the disposal of waste, including quarantine and clinical wastes, the public is being informed that, as from 11 February 2023 registered importers and manufacturers would be required to conspicuously display, thereon, only the “**purpose**” of such plastic bags, for example “*disposal of waste*” or “*sac à déchets*”.

The public is also reminded that any person who contravenes the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 shall commit an offence and shall be liable, on a first conviction, to the payment of fines as follows:

- (i) possession or use of banned plastic bags- fine not exceeding Rs. 2,000;
- (ii) sale or distribution of banned plastic bag- fine not exceeding Rs. 20,000;
- (iii) manufacture, importation, exportation of banned plastic bags- fine not exceeding Rs. 100,000; and
- (iv) importation or manufacture of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags not compliant with the authorisation conferred by this Ministry under Part 6 of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations- fine not exceeding Rs. 100,000.

*Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
(Environment and Climate Change Division)
10 February 2023*