

COMMUNIQUÉ

Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2021

Pursuant to the promulgation of the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division) wishes to inform the public that the moratorium in respect of the banning of specific non-biodegradable single-use plastic products used by the local food industry, has been extended up to 14 January 2023.

Accordingly, **as from 15 January 2023**, the following non-biodegradable single-use plastic products shall be banned: -

- (i) plastic cups and plastic bowls used solely for the packaging of food products such as dairy products (yogurt, ice cream and desserts); and
- (ii) plastic trays used solely for the “Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP)” of fresh, cooked or pre-cooked food products such as meat, burgers, seafood and cheese.

The attention of the public is being drawn to the fact that the following are not covered under the existing moratorium:

- (i) **non-biodegradable single use plastic cups:** jam and beverages (tea, coffee, chocolate, etc.);
- (ii) **non-biodegradable single use plastic bowls:** confectionery (candy, sweets, marshmallow, dragée, etc.), condiments (chilli, ketchup, soy sauce, etc.), pickles (cornichon, olive, chilli, achard, mazavarou, etc.); and
- (iii) **non-biodegradable single use plastic trays for MAP:** pastry, salted fish, dried and fresh fruits.

Local food companies which have already shifted to biodegradable alternatives are encouraged to sustain their efforts in line with the vision of Government to make of Mauritius a plastic-free country within the nearest possible delays.

In respect of the new moratorium, relevant local food companies are required to renew their authorisation with the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division) **by 31 January 2022 at latest.**

Any person who contravenes the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 shall commit an offence and shall, upon first conviction, be liable to the payment of fines as follows: -

- (i) possession or use of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs2,000;
- (ii) sale or distribution of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs20,000;
- (iii) importation of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs50,000; and
- (iv) manufacture of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs100,000.

Any person who otherwise contravenes the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020, shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs25,000.

Further details on the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 can be accessed from the website of the Ministry at <https://environment.govmu.org>.

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
(Environment and Climate Change Division)
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