

FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS ON THE
SINGLE-USE
PLASTICS BAN



1. WHAT ARE PETRO-BASED SINGLE-USE PLASTICS?



A PETRO-BASED PLASTIC IS ONE THAT IS MADE FROM A PETROLEUM-BASED POLYMER. SINGLE-USE PLASTICS, OR DISPOSABLE PLASTICS, ARE USED ONLY ONCE BEFORE THEY ARE THROWN AWAY.

2. WHEN THE BAN TAKES EFFECT ON APRIL 1, WILL THERE BE A GRACE PERIOD AFTER THAT TO ALLOW PERSONS TO GET RID OF PRESENT STOCK? IF SO, HOW LONG?

THE BAN IS IN FULL EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 2019. IMPORTERS WERE ADVISED SINCE LATE 2018 OF THE IMPENDING BAN AND HAVE BEEN SOURCING ALTERNATIVES SINCE THAT TIME. THIS HAS ALLOWED FOR THE TRANSITION TO ALTERNATIVES PERMISSIBLE UNDER THE LEGISLATION. THESE ALTERNATIVES ARE ALREADY ON THE MARKET AND ARE BEING PHASED IN BY IMPORTERS IN LIGHT OF THE FIRM DATE OF THE BAN.

FURTHER, WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 2020, THERE WILL BE A BAN ON ALL PETRO-BASED PLASTIC BAGS, WITH THE EXEMPTION OF THOSE USED FOR THE PACKAGING OF PHARMACEUTICALS/MEDICINES, HYGIENE AND THE PRESERVATION OF FOOD.

IN ADDITION, A MORATORIUM HAS BEEN EXTENDED ON THE USE OF TETRA PACK STRAWS, WHILE POULTRY PRODUCERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN MORE TIME TO FIND ALTERNATIVES TO THE STYROFOAM TRAYS USED TO PACKAGE POULTRY.



3. WHAT IS BEING BANNED?



PRODUCTS MADE OF PETRO-BASED CHEMICALS, SPECIFICALLY SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CUPS; CUTLERY, INCLUDING PLASTIC KNIVES, FORKS AND SPOONS; STIRRERS; STRAWS; PLATES; EGG TRAYS (BOTH PLASTIC AND STYROFOAM), AND STYROFOAM CONTAINERS USED IN THE CULINARY RETAIL INDUSTRY.

4. WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES AND WHERE CAN THEY BE SOURCED?

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE PETRO-BASED, SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET, SOME OF WHICH ARE MADE FROM PAPER, SUGAR CANE, BAGASSE AND OTHER PLANT-BASED MATERIALS.

AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, SEVERAL LOCAL COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY SOURCED A RANGE OF ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES, WHICH RANGE FROM FOOD CONTAINERS, CUPS, UTENSILS, STRAWS AND BAGS.

5. ARE THERE CONTAINERS WHICH CAN HOLD LIQUID, E.G. SOUSE, GRAVY OR SOUP?

YES, THERE ARE LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS WHO HAVE SOURCED VARIOUS CONTAINERS THAT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO HOLD LIQUIDS AS DESCRIBED.



6. WHAT PENALTIES WILL BE IMPOSED FOR THOSE WHO USE THE BANNED ITEMS AFTER APRIL 1?



THE PENALTIES AND FINES WILL BE PUBLICISED AT A LATER DATE.

7. HOW WILL PERSONS SUCH AS SNO-CONE VENDORS BE IMPACTED BY THIS BAN?

THE IMPACT SHOULD BE MINIMAL BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY ALTERNATIVES IN THE MARKET PLACE.

8. WHY HAS THE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS BEEN EXTENDED TO JANUARY 2020?

THE GRACE PERIOD EXTENDS UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2020, PARTICULARLY TO ALLOW THE LOCAL MANUFACTURERS OF PLASTIC BAGS AND RELATED ITEMS TO TRANSITION TO MORE ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES, AS WELL AS TO CUSHION THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHASING OUT OF PETRO-BASED PLASTICS.



9. I AM A VENDOR. IF I HAVE OLD STOCK OF STYROFOAM CONTAINERS AND PLASTIC FORKS, ETC., CAN I USE THEM AFTER THE DEADLINE TO SELL MY FOOD, OR DO I HAVE TO STOP USING THEM IMMEDIATELY?



NO, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE SUCH ITEMS AFTER THE DATE OF THE BAN AS YOU WOULD BE IN CLEAR CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAW.

10. WILL THE BAN ON PLASTICS AFFECT LARGE GARBAGE BAGS?

NO.

11. WHAT HAPPENS TO IMPORTERS AND BUSINESSES WHO SELL SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CONTAINERS AS PART OF THEIR REGULAR TRADE?

SUCH ENTITIES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AT EACH STEP OF THE PROCESS AND HAVE BEEN WORKING CONTINUOUSLY WITH GOVERNMENT SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BAN TO FIND ALTERNATIVES, SO AS TO COMPLY WITH THE LEGISLATION.

