

Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020

1. Registration of importers and manufacturers of exempt plastic bags or of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags

Step 1: Application form, as set out in the 2nd schedule of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020, should be submitted either electronically at plasticfree@govmu.org or by post or in person at the Registration Desk, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division), Ground Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Port Louis.

Step 2: Following verification of application form and accompanying documents, an acknowledgment receipt will be issued to the applicant on the same day (if application is made in person) or within one working day (if application has been received by post or electronically).

Step 3: Application forms will be processed and additional information may be sought from applicant, if required. Applicant would be informed in writing within 10 working days, whether their application has been approved or not. Where an application has been rejected, applicant would be informed in writing of the reason for refusal.

Step 4: Where an application has been approved, applicant should make payment of fee of Rs10,000/- at the Cash Office, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division), 12th Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Port Louis.

Step 5: A certificate of registration shall be issued to the applicant upon presentation of the payment receipt at the Registration Desk.

Step 6: The importer/manufacturer of exempt plastic bags shall submit a return of the number of exempt plastic bags imported/ manufactured every 6 months.

2. Application for clearance to import a biodegradable or compostable plastic bag

Step 1: Application form, as set out in the 4th schedule of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020, should be submitted either electronically at plasticfree@govmu.org or by post or in person at the Registration Desk, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division) Ground Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Port Louis.

Any application should be submitted, for each consignment, at least 30 days prior to placing the order in respect of the biodegradable or compostable plastic bag, together with the following documents:

- an original or a certified true copy or a scanned copy of the original certificate of conformity issued by the manufacturer;
- a material data sheet; and
- five (5) samples of the biodegradable or compostable plastic bag to be tested by such laboratory as the Director may approve.

Step 2: Following verification of application form and accompanying documents, an acknowledgment receipt will be issued to the applicant on the same day (if application is made in person) or within one working day (if application has been received by post or electronically).

Step 3: Sample of the biodegradable or compostable plastic bag shall be tested by such laboratory or by such means as the Director may approve, in accordance with regulation 6(7)(c).

An Application fee of Rs800 will be charged for the verification of the Certificate of conformity/Test report per item as per the policy of the Mauritius Standard Bureau.

Applicant would be informed in writing within 25 working days, whether their application has been approved or not. If approved, a clearance letter will be issued to the importer and the latter shall be allowed to import the consignment. Otherwise, applicant would be informed in writing of the reason for refusal.

Step 4: Upon arrival of the consignment, sample of the biodegradable or compostable plastic bag shall be tested again in the presence of the importer or her/his representative by such laboratory or by such means as the Director may approve, in accordance with regulation 7(1)(a).

The Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority, with copy to the applicant, would be informed whether the consignment of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags may be cleared.

Work process for plastic bags

Step 5: In case the consignment is not according to clearance:

- (i) the Director-General of the MRA shall hand over the goods to the Director for disposal;
- (ii) the Director may, in accordance with regulation 8, order the importer to dispose of the bag at an approved local recycler within 14 days, at the importer's own expense, or in such other manner as the Director may determine.

Step 6: The importer shall submit a return of the number of biodegradable and compostable plastic bags imported every 6 months.

3. Application for clearance to manufacture a biodegradable or compostable plastic bag

Step 1: Application form, as set out in the 5th schedule of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020, should be submitted either electronically at plasticfree@govmu.org or by post or in person at the Registration Desk, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division) Ground Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Port Louis.

Any application should be submitted by 31 March of each year, together with the following documents:

- an original or a certified true copy or a scanned copy of the original certificate of conformity;
- a material data sheet; and
- five (5) samples of the biodegradable or compostable plastic bag to be tested by such laboratory as the Director may approve.

Step 2: Following verification of application form and accompanying documents, an acknowledgment receipt will be issued to the applicant on the same day (if application is made in person) or within one working day (if application has been received by post or electronically).

Step 3: Sample of the biodegradable or compostable plastic bag shall be tested by such laboratory or by such means as the Director may approve, in accordance with regulation 6(8)(c).

An Application fee of Rs800 will be charged for verification of the Certificate of conformity/Test report per item as per the policy of the Mauritius Standard Bureau.

Step 4: Applicant would be informed in writing within 25 working days, whether their application has been approved or not.

If approved, a clearance letter will be issued to the manufacturer and the latter shall be allowed to manufacture biodegradable and compostable plastic bags. Otherwise, applicant would be informed in writing of the reason for refusal.

Step 5: The manufacturer shall submit a return of the number of biodegradable and compostable plastic bags manufacturers every 6 months.

4. Renewal of registration of importers and manufacturers of exempt plastic bags or biodegradable or compostable plastic bags

Step 1: Application form, as set out in the 2nd schedule of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020, should be submitted either electronically at plasticfree@govmu.org or by post or in person at the Registration Desk, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division), Ground Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Port Louis.

In line with regulation 13, an application for renewal should be submitted at least 3 months prior to the expiry of an existing certificate.

Step 2: Following verification of application form and accompanying documents, an acknowledgment receipt will be issued to the applicant on the same day (if application is made in person) or within one working day (if application has been received by post or electronically).

Step 3: Application forms will be processed and additional information may be sought from applicant, if required. Applicant would be informed in writing within 10 working days, whether their application has been approved or not. Where an application has been rejected, applicant would be informed in writing of the reason for refusal.

Step 4: Where an application has been approved, applicant should make payment of fee of Rs 10,000/- at the Cash Office, Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division), 12th Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Port Louis.

Step 5: A certificate of renewal shall be issued to the applicant upon presentation of the payment receipt at the Registration Desk.