

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

New Regulations on banning of plastic bags

The Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015 has been repealed and replaced in September 2020 by the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020. This new Regulation shall come into force **as from 01 March 2021**.

The Regulation allows for import and manufacture of **exempt plastic bags** as listed in the First Schedule of the Regulations (i.e. for purposes of Waste disposal, Agriculture, Medical, Sampling or Analysis, Packaging, Re-sealable bag with security tamper to contain liquids at airport/port) and for **biodegradable or compostable plastic bags**, subject to registration and clearance from the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change.

Registration for exempt plastic bags and biodegradable or compostable plastic bags

- All existing importers/manufacturers of exempt plastic bags and biodegradable and compostable plastic bags must register anew with the Director of Environment **as from 04 January 2021**. New importers/manufacturers must also register with the Director of Environment. The Certificate of Registration will be issued against a payment of Rs. 10,000, only where the Director considers that the applicant complies with the Regulations and the Certificate will be valid for 3 years.

Clearance for biodegradable or compostable plastic bags

- In addition to the Certificate of Registration, all importers/manufacturers of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags shall apply for a clearance to the Director of Environment, as per the Forms set out in the Fourth and Fifth Schedule of the Regulations.
- The application shall be submitted along with an original certificate of conformity or a certified true copy of the original certificate of conformity issued by an accredited body and five (5) samples of the bags.
- Importers shall apply for a clearance **for each consignment and at least 30 days prior to placing the order** of the biodegradable or compostable plastic bags.
- Manufacturers shall apply for a clearance **by 31 March of every year**.
- The consignment will be released subject to the importer/manufacture holding a valid certificate of Registration, a valid clearance and after such verification/testing by the Department of Environment.

The Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020, the registration form and the application forms for clearance can be downloaded from the Ministry's website on

<http://environment.govmu.org> or collected at the Registration Desk of the Ministry at Ground Floor, Ken Lee Tower, Corner St. Georges & Barracks Streets, Port Louis. The application for registration/clearance shall be made through a duly filled copy of the relevant forms and submitted:

- (a) Either electronically to the Ministry on menv@govmu.org; or
- (b) By fax on 2113865 / registered post / hand delivery at the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Ken Lee Tower, Corner St. Georges & Barracks Streets, Port Louis.

The Ministry endeavours to deliver the Certificates of Registration and Clearances of eligible applicant as per the address given on the application form, within a period of eight (8) days.

The Ministry relies on the collaboration of all manufacturers and importers of plastic bags.

*Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
01 December 2020*