



Ministry of Environment
and National Resources

EFFECTING THE GAZETTE NOTICE ON THE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS



nema
mazingira yetu | uhai wetu | wajibu wetu
National Environment
Management Authority

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Question 1: Which plastics have been banned?

Answer: The ban applies to all plastic carrier bags and flat bags used for commercial and household packaging.

Question 2: What is a plastic carrier bag?

Answer: This is any bag regardless of its thickness or colour, used at the supermarkets, retail stores, shopping malls and grocery stores as secondary packages.

Question 3: What is a flat bag?

Answer: A flat bag is a plastic bag constructed without handles and may have a gusset or not.

Question 4: What are the major concerns of plastics bags?

Answer: Plastic bags are usually manufactured for single use and generally tear or puncture after a first use. They are easily transported by the wind and are some of the most visible components of roadside and shoreline litter. Plastic bags are produced from oil and natural gas, and never fully biodegrade, remaining in the environment as small or even microscopic particles, essentially forever.

Question 5: Are plastics used for primary industrial packaging also banned by the Gazette Notice?

Answer: No, plastic bags used for industrial packaging are exempted so long as they are used for industrial primary packaging at the source of the product and are not available on sale at the counter or given freely outside the industrial setting. Furthermore, the bags must be labelled clearly by the industry manufacturing the product.

Question 6: When are manufacturers and importers required to stop providing plastic single-use carrier bags to customers?

Answer: By August 28th, 2017. Furthermore all manufacturers and importers shall declare all their remaining stocks by the due date to the National Environment Management Authority for necessary action.

Question 7: Will exporters of plastic single-use carrier bags continue to manufacture the bags?

Answer: NO. The manufacturing of all plastic carrier bags shall cease by 28th August 2017.

Question 8: Will there be a “grace period” for retailers to comply?

Answer: The Gazette Notice was published on 28th February, 2017, allowing six (6) months grace period for necessary adjustments and compliance.

Question 9: Are retailers allowed to use up existing stocks of plastic bags after August 28th 2017?

Answer: No, retailers are required to clear stocks within the grace period. Furthermore, all retailers shall declare all the remaining stocks by the due date to the National Environment Management Authority for necessary action.

Question 10: Can retailers provide paper bags as an alternative to plastic carrier bags?

Answer: Yes.

Question 11: What are the alternatives to plastic carrier bags?

Answer:

1. All bags made of non-plastic materials e.g. jute/sisal bags, cloth bags, papyrus bags, canvas bags and buyers/shoppers own shopping bags.
2. Woven Polypropylene plastic bags (gunny bags)
3. Non-woven polypropylene plastic bags (cloth like bags)
4. Laminated polypropylene bags
5. Polyolefin fibre bags

Question 12: Which retailers are affected?

Answer: All Retailers

Question 13: Are small retail businesses exempt?

Answer: No.

Question 14: Are bin liners exempted?

Answer: Yes. Bin liners have been exempted for the following categories of waste;

1. Biomedical waste,
2. Hazardous waste
3. Garbage

On condition that they are legibly and permanently labelled the name of the industry manufacturing the product and the end-user (here being NEMA licensed waste handler/Transporter.

Question 15: Is there an exemption for clothing stores?

Answer: No. Exemptions apply to only primary industrial packaging which is in accordance with approved standards as indicated in 5 and 14 above.

Question 16: Are duty free bags exempted?

Answer: Yes. Duty free bags are not affected by the ban though they use is restricted within the Duty free shop and they should not be available for sale or use within the Kenyan market. Furthermore any traveller coming into Kenya with duty free bags shall be required to dispose the same at the entry points or in the aircrafts prior to disembarking their flights.



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