



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### ILLEGAL IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, SALE AND USE OF PLASTIC BAGS IN KENYA

The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) has noted with great concern, the re-emergence of illegal importation, manufacture, use, and sale in retail outlets of banned plastic bags and packaging materials.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural resources on 28th February, 2017 through a Gazette notice No. 2356 banned the use, manufacture and importation of all plastic bags used for commercial and household packaging in Kenya.

On 4th November 2024, the CS then gazetted the Environmental Management and Co-ordination (Management and Control of Plastic Packaging Materials) Regulations, 2024; whose objectives are among others to establish a framework for the management and control of the use of plastic packaging material as well as establish a framework for the management and control of the use of plastic packaging material.

Regulation 6(1) of the aforementioned Regulations, provides that a person shall not manufacture, import, export, possess, use or offer for sale a flat bag, plastic bag or plastic film without authorization from the Authority. In addition, regulation 2, defines a "plastic bag" as a carrier bag or flat bag made from any polymer including polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate that could be laminated or non-laminated, film or fabric, woven or non-woven. A person shall not sell or offer for sale plastic packaging materials in Kenya unless the **name and contacts details of both the user and the manufacturer are clearly printed on the material**, and the authorization of the Authority has been given.

Consequently, members of public are advised that any person who wishes to **manufacture, import, export, possess, use or offer for sale flat plastic bags or plastic films within the above definition** to apply to the Authority for a licence in accordance with the Management and Control of Plastic Packaging Materials) Regulations, 2024. Application details and process can be accessed through **[www.nema.go.ke](http://www.nema.go.ke)**.

Members of the public are further advised that any person who manufactures, imports, exports, uses, sells, offers for sale or possess plastic carrier bag or plastic flat bags without a licence commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a jail term not less than one year but not more than four years or to a fine of not less than two million shillings but not more than four million shillings or both such fine and imprisonment.

The Authority continues to carry out inspection/enforcement activities and regulation on the use, manufacture and importation of plastic carrier bags and plastic flat bags to ensure compliance with the law, while assuring the public of its commitment to ensure a clean, healthy and safe environment for all.

**Dated: 8th September, 2025**

**For further inquiries and information please contact:**

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**Report incidents on : 0741 101 100 | [incidence@nema.go.ke](mailto:incidence@nema.go.ke)**  
**Email: [info@nema.go.ke](mailto:info@nema.go.ke)**



**Our Environment, Our Life, Our Responsibility**