



MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PLASTIC PACKAGING MATERIALS IN KENYA



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Question 1: What plastic packaging materials are addressed by the Regulation?

Answer: The Regulation applies to all plastic carrier bags, flat bags and films 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.

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 is a plastic film?

Answer: A plastic film is a flexible plastic of thickness of up to 250 microns used for packaging or wrapping other products.

Question 5: What are the major environmental and health concerns of plastics?

Answer: Plastics are non-biodegradable and can cause significant environmental degradation when scattered in the environment. They are easily transported by the wind and are among the most visible waste components by the roadside and shorelines, thus making them an eyesore. When consumed by livestock and other animals such as sea turtles, plastics can cause internal injuries, blockages, and malnutrition, often leading to death. Furthermore, when plastics break down into microplastics, they pose serious health and reproductive risks. These microplastics are ingested by marine organisms and other animals, which may later be consumed by humans, thereby entering the food chain and threatening human health.

Question 6: Does NEMA allow the manufacture, importation, exportation and use of plastic packing materials for industrial and non-industrial packaging?

Answer: Yes, on condition that the user applies and gets a license for the manufacture, importation, exportation, and use of plastic packaging materials.

Question 7: Is the plastic packaging license transferrable?

Answer: No. the license for plastic packaging is not transferable

Question 8: Is labelling of plastic packaging materials mandatory?

Answer: Yes, the bags must be labelled clearly showing the product name, name and contacts of the manufacturer/product owner, and the name and contact of the manufacturer of the packaging material. For imported products, the labelling shall contain the product name, product manufacturer, Kenyan importer and the country of origin.

Question 9: What are the alternatives to plastic packaging materials?

Answer: All bags made of non-plastic materials e.g. jute, Kraft paper, sisal, cloth, papyrus, and canvas.

Question 10: Is anyone coming into the country allowed to bring in plastic bags used in packaging personal items?

Answer: No. Any one coming into Kenya with plastic bags used in packaging personal items shall be required to dispose them same at the points of entry.

Question 11: How long does it take to process a plastic license application

Answer: Within 21 working days.



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