

Kenya Plastics

The ban of the use of plastic bags came to effect on 28th August 2017 following the plastic ban gazette notice 2356 of 28th February 2017 . National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) prior to the ban created a lot of awareness through the media on the effects of the plastic bags on the environment and especially on alternatives and information on other innovations of packaging. The ban applies to the use, manufacture and importation of the banned plastics within Kenya. Since duty free shops at airports are considered to be outside the Kenyan territory, bags used at this point are not affected by the ban. However, any traveler coming into Kenya with duty free bags shall be required to leave the same at the entry points. However the ban gave exemption on Hazardous waste liners so long as they are legibly and permanently labeled and color-coded and are incinerated together with the waste.

Garbage Liners are also exempted on condition that they are clearly labeled and have demonstrated effective and efficient Extended Producer/User Responsibility and/or effective Take Back Schemes. The liners will NOT be dumped together with the waste but will be emptied and reused or recycled by the licensed waste collector and transporter (the end user).

The following guideline on the potential alternatives was agreed on with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS);

- All bags made from non-plastic materials e.g. jute/sisal, Paper, cloth, Papyrus
- Woven polypropylene plastic bags (gunny bags)
- Non-woven polypropylene plastic bags (cloth-like bags)
- Laminated polypropylene bags
- Polyolefin fiber bags
- 100% biodegradable bags (starch and cassava bags)

The standard development are to be based on the following parameters:-

- The specific material;
- Gauge;
- Tensile Strength and;
- Basting Strength
- Toxicity of the material and its safety for use (Heavy metals will also be tested among others).

The ban has been enforced such that going to the supermarket or any form of shopping one has either to bring their own baskets or purchase compliant bags from the stores to carry good. Hope this information helps you in your presentation.

Submission by the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi

Peace & blessings,

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