

Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles Regulation SI 98, 2010

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Statutory Instrument 98 Of 2010 [CAP.20:27 Environmental Management (Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles) Regulations, 2010]

IT is hereby notified that the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Management in terms of section 140 of the Environmental Management Act [*Chapter 20:27*], has made the following regulations:

Title

1. These regulations may be cited as the Environmental Management (Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles) Regulations, 2010.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations

“biodegradable plastic” means any plastic capable of being decomposed in natural aerobic and anaerobic environments;

“cling film” means a thin plastic film that sticks to itself and that is customarily used for wrapping food;

“commercial distribution” in relation to plastic packaging means

(a) the wholesale or retail selling of plastic packaging; or

(b) the distribution whether for consideration or not of plastic carrier packaging to buyers of goods contained in plastic packaging;

“compulsory specification” means the compulsory specification for plastic packaging as provided for in the Schedule;

“responsible person” in relation to plastic waste means

(a) manufacturers of plastic packaging and plastic bottles; or

(b) retailer of plastic packaging and plastic bottles; or

(c) every local authority;

“plastic”, in relation to plastic packaging or plastic bottles, means any packaging or bottle made from any polymeric material;

“plastic packaging” means plastic barrier packaging, plastic carrier packaging and plastic bread packaging;

“plastic barrier packaging” means plastic packaging used to seal goods to protect those goods from breakages or contamination with other goods or extraneous matter;

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“plastic carrier packaging” means plastic packaging for the carriage of goods by a person that is manufactured with or without handles, or with or without gussets;

“plastic bread packaging” means plastic packaging and primarily for the packaging of bread;

“plastic waste” means discarded plastic packaging and plastic bottles.

Prohibition of certain plastics

3(1) The manufacture for use within Zimbabwe, commercial distribution or importation of plastic packaging with a wall thickness of less than thirty micrometers is prohibited;

Unless it can be provided that they are:

- (1) Plastic bread packaging and clingy film used as plastic barrier packaging of a wall thickness of between twenty-five micrometers and thirty micrometers; or
- (2) biodegradable plastic packaging.

(2) No ink shall be used for printing on plastic and plastic bottles unless the ink and the printing thereof complies with the compulsory specification as provided in the Schedule

(3) Any plastic product found to be in contravention of sections 3(1) and 3(2) shall be recalled from the system.

Plastic waste prevention targets

4(1) The Agency shall require from time to time, every responsible person to set plastic waste prevention targets and to notify the Agency of such targets.

(2) The Plastic waste prevention targets shall provide for any of the following as may be appropriate

- (a) the disposal of plastic waste by the responsible person in designated receptacles or sites; or
- (b) the design of plastics containing few pollutants, are recyclable and durable when put to their intended use; or
- (c) the use of biodegradable plastics; or
- (d) the creation of the mode of distribution and return systems, that reduce residual plastic waste to a minimum

Consignment slips and markings

5(1) The following information shall be provided, either in print on each plastic packaging, or in the form of a consignment slip included in every consignment, batch or packaging^{3/4}

- 1. the name of the manufacturer and the country of manufacture of the plastic packaging;
- 2. the name of the person in Zimbabwe importing or distributing plastic packaging;
- 3. The name of the country on which the plastic packaging is consigned, if it is not consigned from the country of manufacture.

(2) All markings on the consignment slips (or plastic packaging) shall be in the English language.

Offences and Penalties

6. Any responsible person who contravenes section 3 shall be guilty of an offence and liable to fine not exceeding a level fourteen, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or to **Online**



SCHEDULE (Section 2 and 3)**Compulsory Specification**

"The purpose of compulsory specification is to assist the implementation of the Plastic Packaging and Plastic Bottles Regulations in order to protect the environment. These specifications cover requirements for packaging that is made from thermo-plastic materials and covers plastic, and carrier packaging both domestically produced and imported for use within Zimbabwe. It also covers the thickness and printing requirements for these packaging.

The specifications do not cover bread packaging, which may have a thickness of twenty-five micrometers.

. Requirements

1(a) Plastic packaging, offered for the trade of commercial distribution as carrier packaging, shall be made from plastic film consisting of polypropylene.

(b) When the film of the plastic carrier packaging is measured in accordance with section 3(1), no individual thickness measurement shall be less than thirty micrometers.

Printing requirements

2(a) Ink used for printing on plastic carrier bags shall be classified as one of the following types:

Type A: Ink that is a single resin based system, based on co-solvent polyamide

Type B: Ink that does not comply with the requirements for a type A

(b) when compliance with the requirements for a type A ink is claimed, the claimant shall supply and develop a form with the requirements for type 'A' with the consignment of batch bags.

(c) when dried ink is tested in accordance with test method 3(b), type A ink shall not exhibit any change of colour.

(d) For ink of type A, the mass percentage of dried solids of the printed ink, relative to the mass of an unprinted packaging, shall not exceed 2.25 *per centum*.

(e) For ink of type B, the mass percentage of dried solids of the printed ink, relative to the mass of an unprinted packaging, shall not exceed 1.125 *per centum*.

. Test methods

3(a) Measure the thickness of the plastic film using the method described in SAZ-ISO4893, and check the results for compliance.

(b) Type of ink (nitrocellulose spot test) If Type 'A' Ink is claimed, the claimant shall not exhibit any change of colour, the general principle is that a solution of diphenylamine in concentrated sulfuric acid is used to indicate the presence of nitrocellulose, the re-agent causes an almost instantaneous formation of a dark blue colour on contact with nitrocellulose.

CAUTION:

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The substances used for this test are extremely dangerous. Gloves and safety glasses should be used throughout the preparation and use of this solution.

i. Preparation of test solution.

(a) Carefully mix together the following ingredients in a conical flask whilst cooling the flask under running water

(b) 0.5g diphenylamine (C₁₂ H₁₁ N);

(c) 10,0 g water;

(d) and 30,0 g concentrated sulphuric acid (98%)

CAUTION:

Add the acid slowly to the water.

(a) carefully add a further 60,0g of concentrated sulphuric acid, and mix gently.

(b) transfer the contents of the flask to a dark glass bottle, and label and date the bottle,

NOTE:

The solution should have a shelf life of approximately one month. The solution will initially be a yellow/ orange colour, and it should be discarded and prepared afresh if it shows any signs of discolouration (which would probably indicate a reaction with light, oxidation or contamination).

(A) Procedure

(B) Place one drop of the test solution on a sample of the dried ink to be tested.

(C) Check after thirty seconds for any colour change,

If the colour changes to the dark blue, it indicates the presence of nitrocellulose.”

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