



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Environment Department- Ban of the use of Compostable carry bags-Alternative materials that can be used as a substitute for the banned single use plastic items - - Orders issued

ENVIRONMENT(B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.2/2020/ENVT Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 27/01/2020

- Read 1 Press release dt 6.1.2020 of the Director, Department of Environment & Climate change
2 G.O(MS) No 7/2019/Envt dt 17.12.2019
3 G.O (MS) No.6/2019/Envt dt 27.11.2019

ORDER

Vide orders read as 2., 3. above, Govt have imposed a ban on the manufacture, storage, transport and sale of single use plastic items in the State of Kerala w.e.f 1.1.2020 and anyone found to be violating the Government Order will be fined up to Rs 50000/- and cancellation of license.

After the issuance of the above Orders, State Government received numerous representations about the use of carry bags and requesting to provide/list out alternative materials that can be used as a substitute for the banned single use plastic items. State Government had in GO cited 3. above, ordered that compostable materials having the specified standard can be used as a substitute for the banned plastic items. However it is noticed that fake compostable products resembling the original in texture and tint, and difficult to distinguish at first look, are flooding the markets negating the impact of the plastic ban and defeating the very intention of Government of ridding the State and water bodies of single use plastic.

State Government have examined the whole matter in detail. Cloth and paper carry bags had been used till recently in the State to buy goods and groceries. These serve as reasonable substitutes for the banned plastic carry bags. A number of micro and small scale units have now started production and supply of such plastic free carry bags. The public response to the ban has been overwhelming and they have started carrying their own bags to the market. Government therefore issued clarification vide reference 1. cited.

Government hereby issue the order further clarifying the banned items. It is recommended to use the following alternative non-plastic /eco-friendly materials as a substitute for the banned single use plastic items.

A

Both branded and Non branded compostable alternatives/substitutes also banned

Recommended non-plastic substitutes

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Carry bags irrespective of thickness, made of plastic | Cloth, paper bags |
| 2. Sheets made of plastic, for single-use spread on tables in function venues, spread on plates while serving food. | Paper spread |
| 3. Plates, cups and decorative materials made of styrofoam or Thermocol | Glass, ceramic, steel, cups, plates, paper and plant-based decorations |
| 4. Single-use utensils like cups, plates, dishes, spoons, forks, straw, stirrer, made of plastic | Glass, ceramic, steel, wooden cups, plates, dishes, spoons, forks, straw, stirrer |
| 5. Non-woven bags, plastic flags, plastic bunting | Cloth , paper bags, flags, bunting |
| 6. Plastic packets for packing fruits and vegetables | Paper and cloth bags |
| 7. Plastic drinking water pouches | Banned, no substitute |
| 8. PET/PETE drinking water bottles less than 500 ml | Banned, no substitute |

B

Banned items for which compostable substitutes can be used

Recommended Compostable substitute

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Plastic-coated paper cups, plastic-coated paper plates, plastic-coated paper bowls, plastic-coated paper bags | Paper cups with PLA-coating, certified by CPCB and IS: 17088 compliant. |
| 2. Garbage Bags, including for hospital use, made of plastic | Compostable plastic garbage bags, certified by CPCB and IS: 17088 compliant |

Compostable materials should also adhere to the following guidelines -

1. The compostable plastic products shall have approval from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the certificate issued by CPCB shall be valid at the time of manufacture/sale/stocking/marketing of the product/s.
2. The compostable plastic materials shall bear details of the company that manufacture, agency that market, the material specification, date of manufacture, batch number, CPCB approval details with license number and validity etc, in the form of QR code.
3. The product shall bear the title '**this is a purely compostable plastic product**' written in both English and Malayalam.
4. The product shall dissolve in Dichloromethane (Methylene dichloride) and this shall be indicated in the packaging bag/cover/sheet material, as a preliminary test for identification. This shall be printed on the product as 'This product dissolve in Dichloromethane (Methylene dichloride).

(By order of the Governor)
DR. USHA TITUS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

To:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Govt of India
2. All the District Collectors
3. All the Department Heads
4. All Heads of Public Sector Units /Autonomous bodies

5. The Secretary to Governor, Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram
6. The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Thiruvananthapuram
(By order of the Governor)
7. The Secretary, Kerala Public Service Commission
8. The Registrar, Kerala Administrative Tribunal (including covering letter)
9. The Registrar, Kerala High Court, Ernakulam
10. The Registrar, Kerala Lokayuktha, Thiruvananthapuram
11. The Member Secretary, State Planning Board, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram
12. The Secretary, State Information Commission, Thiruvananthapuram
13. The Registrar, Kerala/Calicut/CUSAT/Kannur/Mahatma Gandhi Universities
14. The Registrar, Kerala Agriculture University, Mannuthy, Thrissur
15. The Registrar, Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady P.O, Ernakulam
16. The Registrar, Kerala University of Health and Allied Science, Thrissur
680596
17. The Registrar, Kerala Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Science University,
Pookode, Wayanad
18. The Registrar, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Panangad, Kochi
19. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board
20. The Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board
21. The Managing Director, Clean Kerala Company
22. Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission
23. CIPET (Institute of Plastic Technology), Kochi
24. Kerala Plastic Manufacturers Association
25. All Depts in Government Secretariat (to give direction to all institutions under
their control)
26. General Administration (SC) Department
27. Stock File/Office Copy (Envf.B2/198/2018-Envf)

Copy to:-

1. Private Secretary to Chief Minister
2. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary
3. PA to Principal Secretary

Forwarded /By order


Section Officer