

★ HOTEL ★

Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware and Other Plastic Products

Hotel Sector



環境保護署
Environmental
Protection Department

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February 2024 version

Agenda of Training Seminar

15:00 – 16:30	Introduction of the New Regulation on Disposable Plastic Products
16:30 – 16:50	Quiz & Explanation
16:50 – 17:00	Discussion & Q&A session
17:00	End of training seminar



Outline

1. Overview of the New Regulation on Disposable Plastic Products
2. Statutory requirements
3. Details of the Regulation (Hotel)
4. How can hotel sector get prepared?
5. Scenarios and Examples



Overview of the New Regulation on Disposable Plastic Products



New Regulation on Disposable Plastic Products

Objectives



- ❑ Plastic is difficult to decompose and can persist in the environment for a very long time. It can further fragment into microplastics, causing far-reaching harm to the environment, ecology, and human health. Therefore, “plastic reduction” and “plastic-free” have become an international consensus. In recent years, both the Mainland and other places in the world have stepped up measures to reduce the use of plastic materials and explores alternatives.
- ❑ The objective of the new regulation is to reduce the use of disposable plastic tableware and other plastic product at source through legislation, thereby minimizing the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecology and human health and mitigating climate change.

New Regulation on Disposable Plastic Products

Overview

- ❑ The regulation will ban the local sale and prohibit restaurants from providing customers with nine types of disposable plastic tableware (such as expanded polystyrene tableware, straws, cups, and cup lids, etc.), and also regulate a series of disposable plastic products (such as inflatable sticks, umbrella bags, hotel/guesthouse toiletries, oxo-degradable plastic products etc.) in terms of their manufacture, sale, and supply. The regulation will be carried out in two phases.
- ❑ The new regulation is closely related to various businesses, especially the catering sector, retail and service sector, as well as the hotel sector.



New Regulation on Disposable Plastic Products – Timetable

- ❑ The Legislative Council has passed the relevant 'Product Eco-Responsibility (Amendment) Ordinance 2023' on 18th October, 2023.
- ❑ With a 6-month preparation period, the regulation will commence from 22nd April 2024, in support of Earth Day.
- ❑ The first 6 months after the implementation will be designated as an adaptation period, which will focus on promotion and education.



Statutory Requirements



	At a Glance			
	Scope of Regulation			
	Implementation Date: 22 April 2024			
Disposable plastic tableware	Sale	Takeaway	Dine-in	
1. All expanded polystyrene (EPS) tableware (including plates, food containers and cups)	X	X	X	
2. Plastic straws	X	X	X	
3. Plastic stirrers	X	X	X	
4. Plastic forks, knives, spoons	X	X	X	
5. Plastic plates	X	X	X	
6. Plastic cups	Can continue to be sold	Can continue to be used	X	
7. Plastic cup lids	Can continue to be sold	Can continue to be used	X	
8. Food containers including plastic bowls and plastic boxes	Can continue to be sold	Can continue to be used	X	
9. Lids of food containers including plastic bowls and plastic boxes	Can continue to be sold	Can continue to be used	X	

9



Regulation of Other Disposable Plastic Products

Other disposable plastic products	Sale	Free distribution	Manufacture
1. Plastic stemmed cotton buds	X	X	
2. Balloon sticks	X	X	
3. Inflatable cheer sticks	X	X	
4. Glow sticks	X	X	
5. Party hats	X	X	
6. Umbrella bags	X	X	
7. Plastic food sticks	X	X	
8. Plastic toothpicks	X	X	
9. Non-medical use transparent gloves	Can continue to be sold	X	
10. Plastic packaged tissue paper for promotional use	Can continue to be sold	X	
11. The following plastic products for use in hotel rooms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• toothbrushes• toothpaste• shower caps• razors• nail files• combs• small sized shampoo, body wash, conditioner, lotion and hand wash• disposable plastic bottled water	Can be provided at a charge	X	
12. oxo-degradable plastic products (regardless of disposability)	X	X	X

Exclusions and Exemptions

1. Tableware attached to pre-packaged food or drink products

e.g. Disposable plastic tableware contained in ice-cream cups and cup noodles



e.g. Straws attached to beverage cartons



e.g. Disposable plastic containers for pre-packaged food



What is pre-packaged food?

1. packaged at a place outside the supply point; AND
2. wholly contained in packaging



Exclusions and Exemptions

2. Provision of disposable plastic straws to persons with medical needs



Exclusions and Exemptions

Specific situations where the sale or supply of regulated disposable plastic products can be exempted, including:



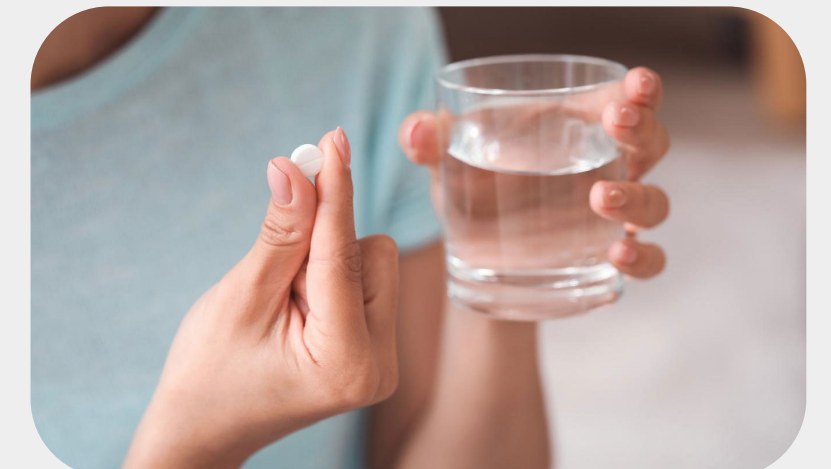
Forensic Analysis



Medical treatment or procedure



Scientific research or experiment



Taking medicine



For resell purposes



For manufacturing process

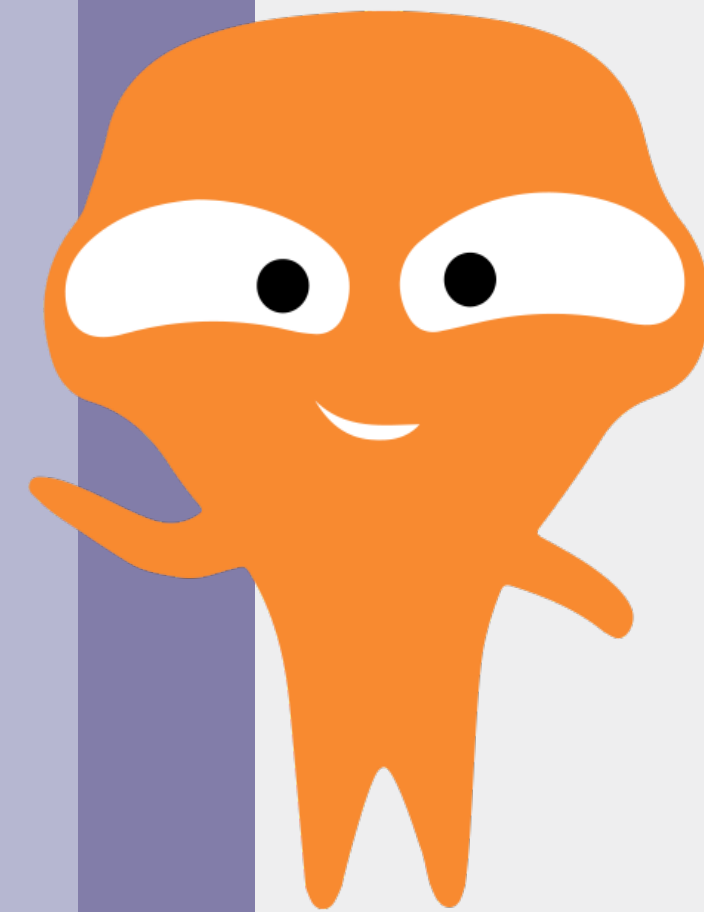


Provision of disposable plastic straws to persons with medical needs

Note: This does not apply to oxo-degradable plastic products, non-medical use transparent plastic gloves, and plastic packaged tissue paper for promotional use.

Penalties

- Maximum fine at Level 6 (\$100,000)
- A fixed penalty notice can also be issued to the person-in-charge of the relevant business premises demanding for a fixed penalty of \$2,000 to discharge the person's liability for the offense
- Offenses related to oxo-degradable plastic products or those considered serious (i.e., recklessly or repeatedly committing an offence concerned) – may consider dealing with by summonses and court proceedings



Scope of Regulation

Hotel Sector



What are disposable plastic products?



Disposable

According to the amended Ordinance, a product is disposable if it is not designed to be used for the purpose for which it was designed more than once, or on more than once occasion, before being disposed of.



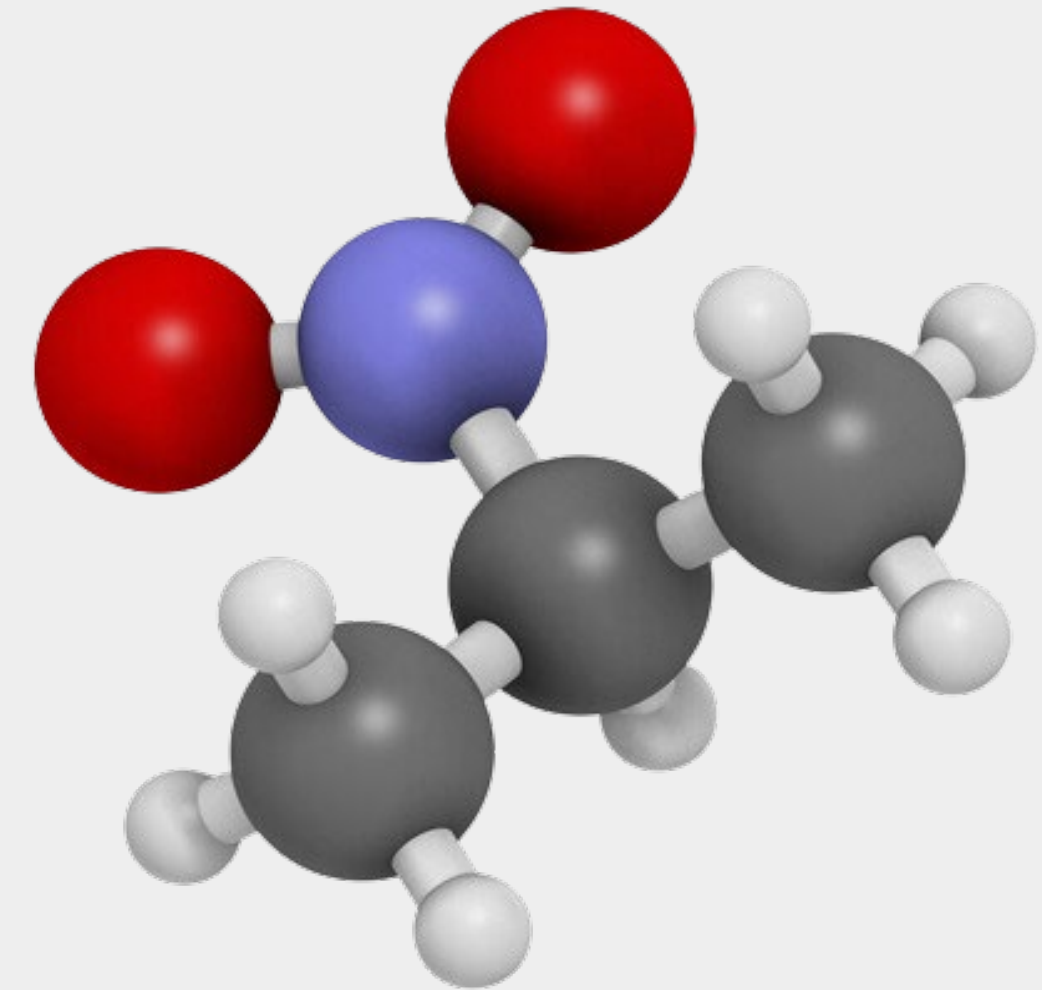
Note: The definition of 'disposable' in the legislation primarily focus on the original design of the product, rather than the number of times an individual user can use it before disposing.

What are disposable plastic products?

Plastic


Refers to a material consisting of a polymer (other than a natural polymer that has not been chemically modified such as plant fibre), whether or not an additive or any other substance such as adhesives, inks, binders has been added to the material.


A plastic product refers to a product that is wholly or partly made of plastic.





Plastic includes :





Conventional Plastic



1
PET



2
HDPE



3
PVC





4
LDPE




5
PP


6
PS


7
OTHER



Such as expanded polystyrene (EPS), Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), Polypropylene (PP), Polystyrene (PS))

Oxo-degradable Plastic



Such as Oxo-degradable plastic, Oxo-biodegradable plastic

Biodegradable Plastic








Such as Polylactic Acid (PLA), Corn Starch, Polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB)

Plastic Lining



Such as Polyethylene (PE) Lining, Polylactic Acid (PLA) Lining

Plastic does not include:

Natural polymers (not chemically modified)



Such as bamboo, wood, paper,
plant fibers, wood pulp, grass
pulp, bagasse

Additives (non-structural polymers)



Such as adhesives, inks,
binders, water-based barrier
coating

Other non-polymeric materials



Such as stainless steel,
aluminum

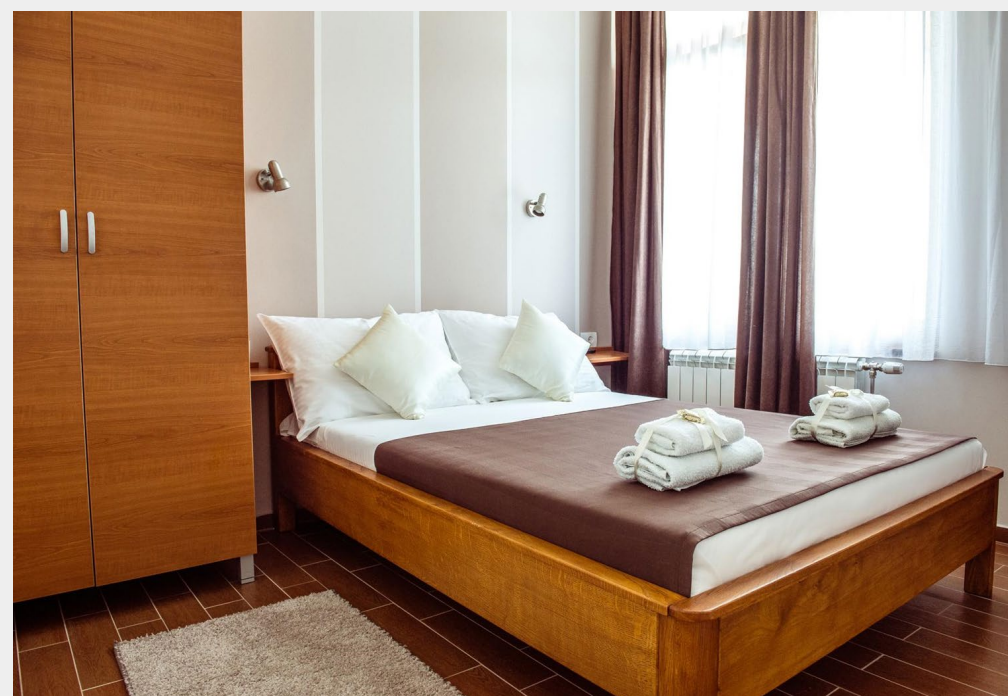
What is a licensed hotel and guesthouse?

Applicable to premises with valid hotel or guesthouse licenses issued in accordance with the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance (Cap.349)

Examples of licensed hotels and guesthouses :



Hotels



Guesthouses



Youth hostels

Scope of First Stage Regulation

Licensed hotels and guesthouses are prohibited from supplying for free the following plastic products **in the guest rooms** (i.e. customers should be charged when the following items are provided)

Toiletries packed in disposable plastic containers



Shampoo, hair conditioner, body wash, body lotion and hand sanitizer contained in small bottles

Scope of First Stage Regulation

Licensed hotels and guesthouses are prohibited from supplying for free the following plastic products **in the guest rooms** (i.e. customers should be charged when the following items are provided)

Toiletries made of plastics



Plastic-handled
toothbrush



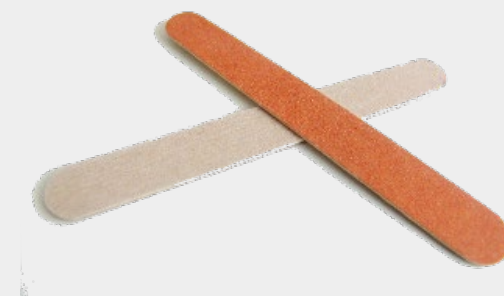
Plastic-
packed
toothpaste



Shower cap



Razor



Nail file



Comb

Scope of First Stage Regulation

Licensed hotels and guesthouses are prohibited from supplying for free the following plastic products **in the guest rooms** (i.e. customers should be charged when the following items are provided)

Disposable plastic-bottled water



Including water contained in other disposable plastic containers, such as:



Scope of First Stage Regulation



Licensed hotels or guesthouses must charge for the regulated products provided to guests, and must issue a receipt showing the amount charged for the product(s).

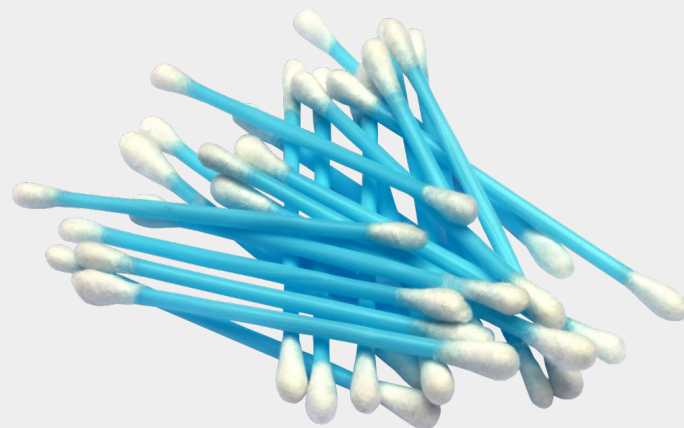
(i.e. must charge separately)



Scope of First Stage Regulation (examples of other disposable plastic products)

Sale (including displaying for sale purpose) and free distribution of the following disposable plastic products are prohibited:

For example, those provided in guest rooms or other places in the hotel:



Plastic stemmed
cotton buds



Plastic straws



Plastic stirrers



Plastic knife, plastic fork, plastic
spoon

Friendly reminder: Please also refer to the regulations for the catering industry and retail and service industry.

Alternative Products and Solutions

1

Encourage guests to bring their own supplies

Prevent

Hotel
Sector



Alternative Products and Solutions

2

Reusable/Refillable

Reuse

Hotel
Sector



Refillable container



Reusable cutlery

Alternative Products and Solutions

2

Reusable/Refillable

Hotel
Sector

Reuse



Reusable glass
bottled water



Water dispenser



Reusable towel

Alternative Products and Solutions

3

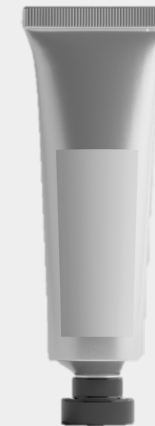
Non-plastic alternative products

Replace

Hotel
Sector



Wooden/bamboo toothbrushes



Glass/aluminium tube container
toothpaste/toothpaste tablets



Wooden/bamboo comb



Stainless steel nail files

Alternative Products and Solutions

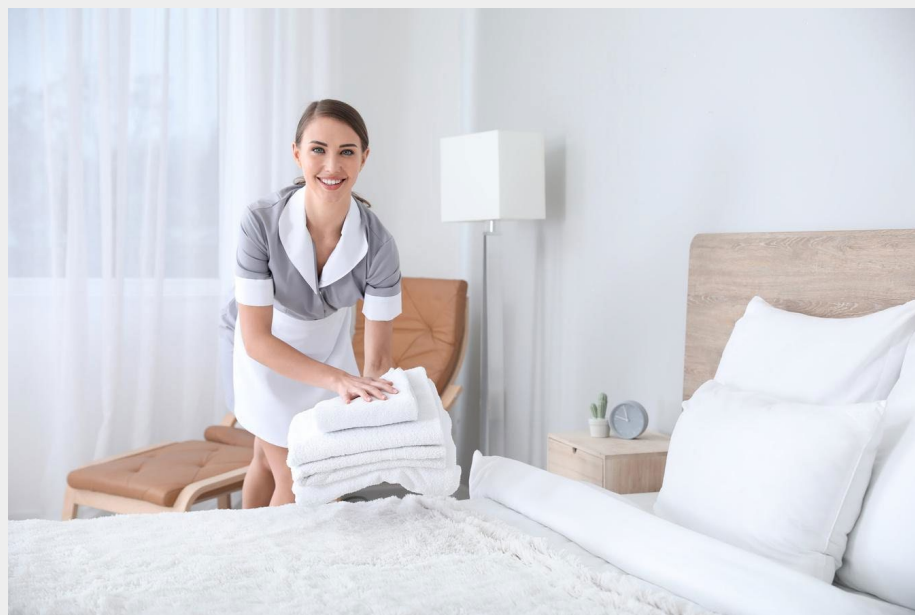
4

Separately charge only when guests need to use



Reduce

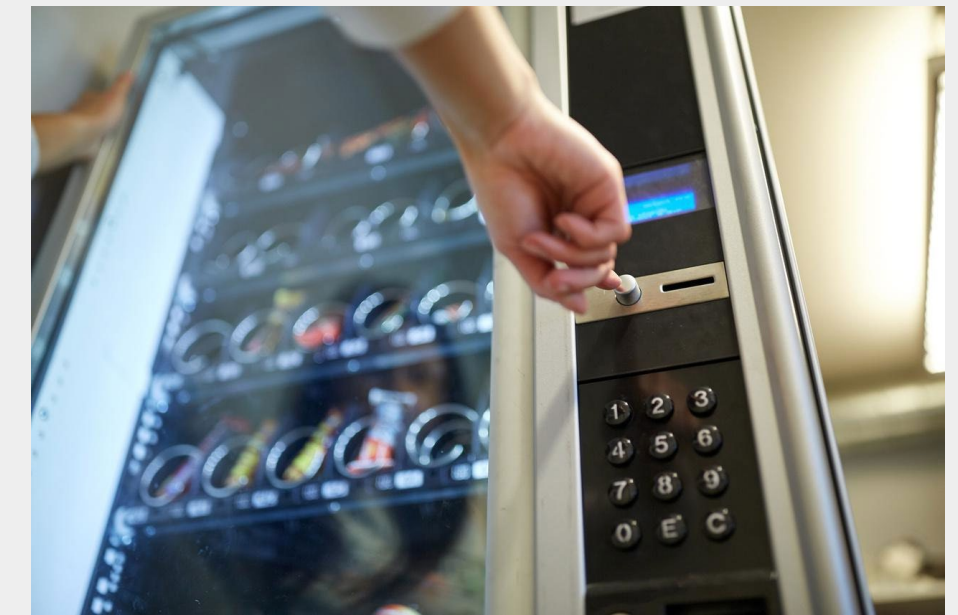
Hotel
Sector



Room service



Mini-bar



Vending machine

Preparation Work



Tips for getting prepared

1. Procure suitable alternative products and solutions as soon as possible. Review the disposable plastic products used in the hotel, such as plastic shower caps, toothbrushes, razors, etc.
2. Find suitable supplier partners, procure reusable or non-plastic alternative products, such as reusable refillable container toiletries, bamboo toothbrushes, etc.
3. Handle the stock of the regulated disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products as soon as possible (e.g. recycling the stock)
4. Conduct performance testing for the alternative products



Tips for getting prepared

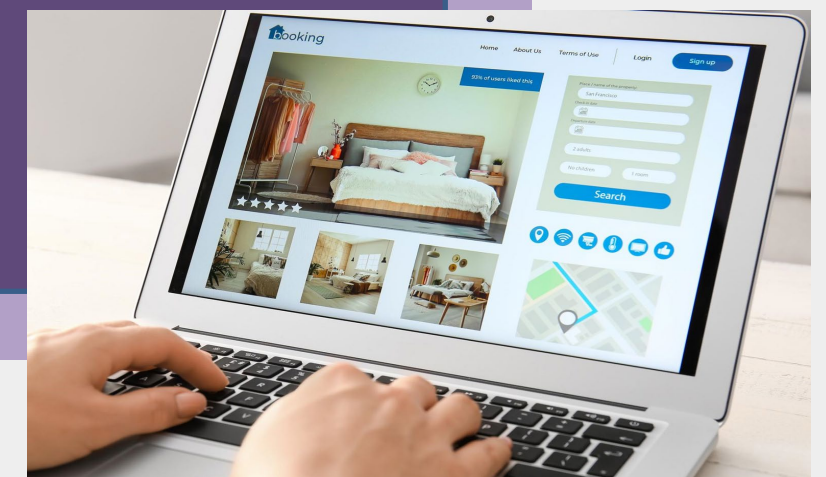
5. Plan as early as possible to inform guests about the implementation of the regulation on the hotel's website, reservation system, or guest room handbook clearly. For example, hotels can send the following messages to guests:

(Reference Only)

Let's go plastic-free together!

The first phase of the Regulation of Disposable Plastic tableware and Other Plastic Products will be implemented from 22nd April, 2024 (Earth Day). Hotels (or guesthouses) will no longer provide plastic toiletries and disposable bottled water for free in guest rooms. We encourage guests to bring their own toiletries to jointly build a 'plastic-free' culture. For more information, please feel free to contact our front desk.

We wish you a pleasant and green journey in Hong Kong.



Tips for getting prepared

6. If guests request the hotel to provide plastic toiletries, hotel may prioritize to offer free reusable or non-plastic alternative products

7. Inform guests in advance about the relevant charging arrangements and details. If the hotel charges guests for providing regulated products, it must list the charges for the products on the receipt

8. Strengthen staff training to enhance their understanding and the importance of the regulation and encourage staff to actively promote a culture of going plastic-free and disposable-free

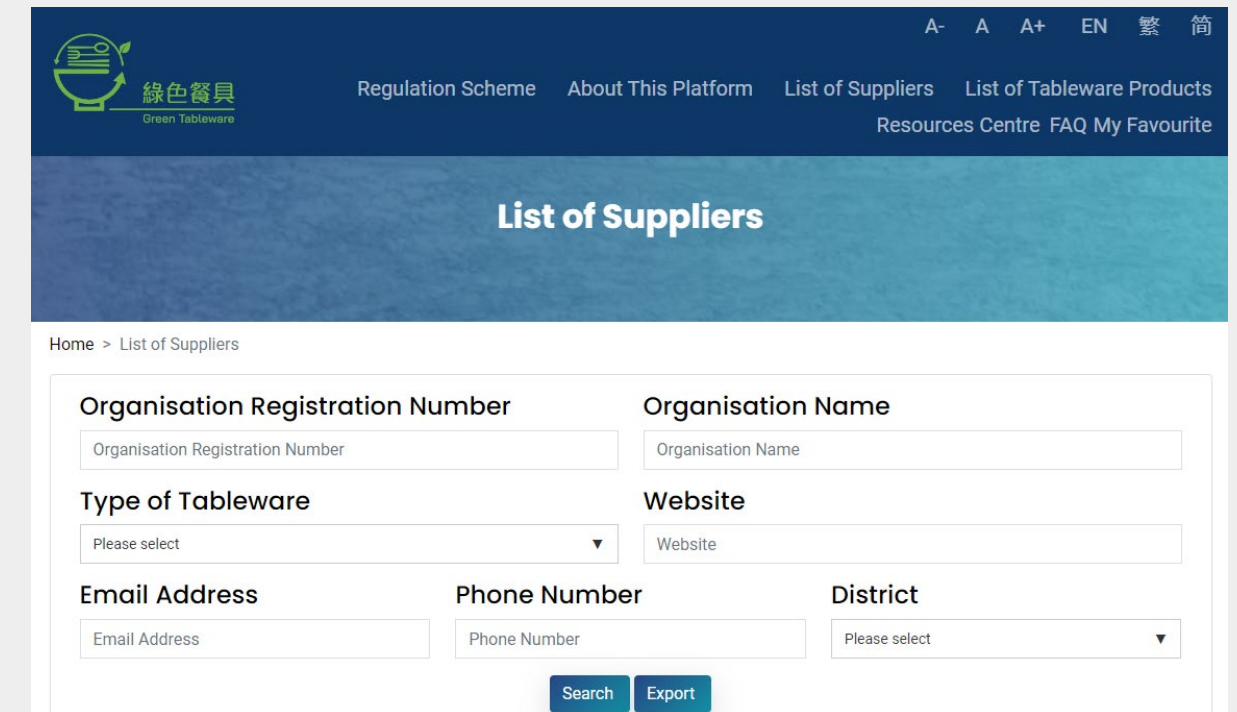


Government Support

1. Green Tableware Platform

(<https://www.greentableware.hk>)

- To encourage the industry to adopt environmentally friendly alternatives to disposable plastic tableware (i.e. paper/plant fibre etc.,), and to facilitate catering sector to source alternatives that can meet the requirements of the regulation, EPD commissioned the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) in January 2022 to establish the "Green Tableware Platform" for reference by the catering sectors, suppliers, and the public.
- In addition to alternative non-plastic disposable tableware products, the platform also provides information on reusable tableware, including details of suppliers offering tableware rental and cleaning services.



Home > List of Suppliers

Organisation Registration Number:

Organisation Name:

Type of Tableware:

Website:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

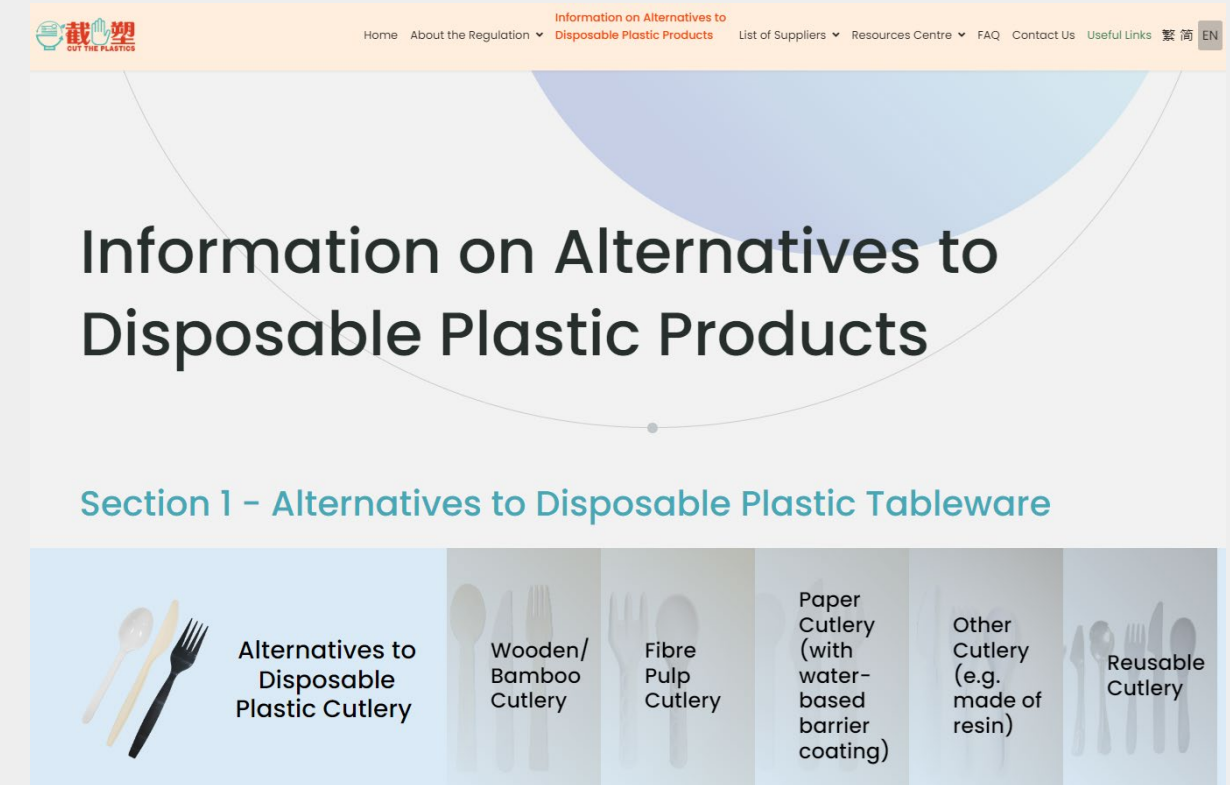
District:



Government Support

2. Cut Plastic Use (<https://www.cuttheplastics.hk/index.php/en/>)

- “Cut Plastic Use” platform aims to disseminate information related to the regulation to the public, businesses and relevant stakeholders, such as the scope and timetable of the regulation. Possible alternatives and ways to replace the use of regulated disposable plastic products are also provided on this platform.
- In addition to offering viable alternatives or solutions, the websites also provides a list of suppliers for reusable/non-plastic hotel toiletries.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q1) Why is there a complete ban on all expanded polystyrene (EPS) tableware? Does this prohibition extend to the EPS products used for transportation and packaging?

A1) EPS is very light and can easily break and flow into the ocean, if inadvertently eaten by marine organisms will cause them to suffocate or be poisoned. It has a particularly serious impact on the environment and marine ecology. In fact, both the Mainland China and Macau have already banned the use of EPS tableware. However, it should be noted that the EPS products used for transportation and packaging are not regulated under the regulation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q2) Why is there a complete ban of oxo-degradable plastic products?

A2) Oxo-degradable plastic products will fragment into micro-plastic through oxidation which damaging the environment. The European Union and New Zealand have already implemented similar regulation on this type of products.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q3) Does the regulation apply to plastic cutlery designed for children?

A3) The legislation specifically focuses on regulating disposable plastic cutlery and does not encompass reusable plastic cutlery. Plastic cutlery designed for children, which can be reused, is not subject to regulation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q4) After 22nd April , will restaurants be prohibited from using disposable plastic containers for takeaway beverages (such as transparent plastic cups and lids/wraps for bubble tea) or for takeaway items like hot soup (such as wonton) and meals?

A4) No. After 22nd April, restaurants can still provide plastic cups, bowls, food containers, and lids to takeaway customers. However, they cannot provide plastic forks, knives, and spoons, as well as any plastic cups, bowls, or food containers made of EPS. Restaurants are also not allowed to provide disposable plastic cutlery and plastic food containers to dine-in customers.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q5) Will it cause inconvenience to tourists staying in local hotels after the regulation is implemented on 22 April?

A5) After the regulation is implemented on 22 April, local hotels are only prohibited from free supply of plastic toiletries, while they can still provide these toiletries separately at a charge.

Local hotels can also provide for free non-plastic toiletries.

Tourists can also bring their own toiletries. Tourists will not violate the law by bringing their own plastic toiletries.

Scenarios and Examples



Scenario 1: Hotel front desks, fitness rooms, or other non-accommodation areas

Case 1 : Disposable plastic-bottled water is provided to guests for free

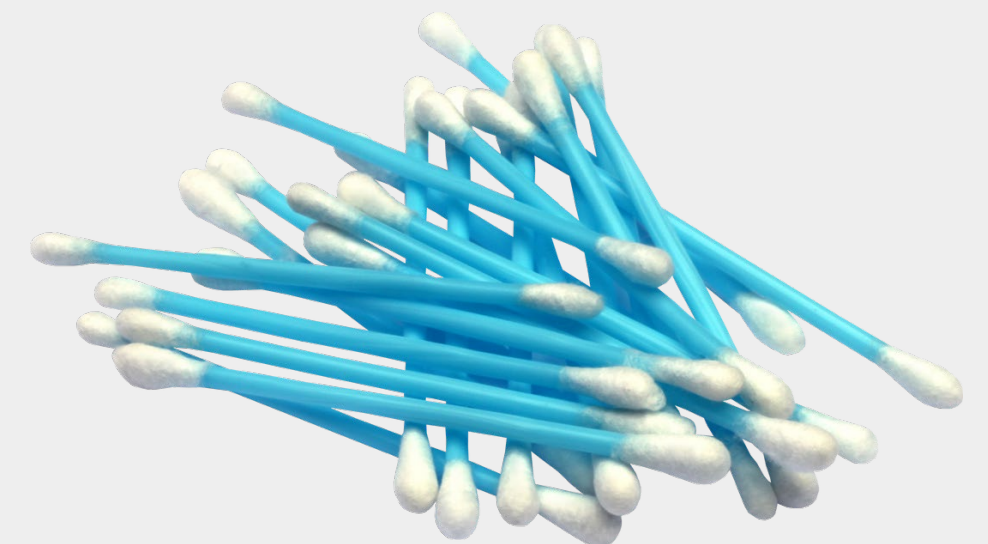
- If the bottled water is not for guests to use inside the guest rooms, it is not regulated, but it is not encouraged

Case 2 : Plastic stemmed cotton buds are provided to guests for free

- Retailers and service industry businesses (including hotels) are prohibited from selling or supplying for free plastic stemmed cotton buds
- There are several alternatives available in the market, such as cotton buds with wooden/paper shaft

Case 3 : Disposable plastic cups are provided to guests for free

- After the implementation of the regulation, retailer and service sectors can still sell/supply without charge non-EPS plastic cup, plastic bowl, plastic meal box and plastic cover. But the sale and free distribution of plastic fork, plastic knife, plastic spoon, plastic straw, plastic stirrer and plastic plate are prohibited



Scenario 2: Guest Rooms



Case 1 :

To save operational costs, the regulated products are placed in the guest rooms beforehand for guests to use

- Allowed, but the charges for each product must be listed on the receipts. We encourage an 'on-demand' operation - to confirm if the customer needs the product during the online accommodation booking process or the hotel check-in process

Case 2 : If the toiletries are requested, can the hotel/guesthouse include them in the rental cost or offer them as a refund/gift to the customer?

- No. The hotels or guesthouses should list the charge items on the receipt. The fees must not be included in the rental cost without breakdowns (such as all-inclusive packages), neither can they be returned to guests as a refund or gift

Scenario 3: Restaurants/dining services

Case 1 : Restaurant in the hotel provides food for guests to dine in the restaurant/nearby dining area outside the premises provided specifically for customers of that restaurant

- Subject to regulation under dine-in service

Case 2 : Restaurant in the hotel provides cooked food for guests to take away and consume outside the restaurant

- Regulated under takeaway

Case 3 : The hotel provides room service, directly delivering food to the guests' room for guests to consume in their rooms.

- Subject to regulation under dine-in service



Quiz Section



Quiz Content

1. The "Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Ordinance 2023" was officially passed on 18th October, 2023, to regulate disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products. When will the first phase of regulation be implemented?

- A. 1st April, 2024
- B. 22nd April, 2024**
- C. 1st June, 2024
- D. 1st December, 2024

2. Which of the following disposable plastic products is/are regulated under the new law?

- i. Toothpick
 - ii. Balloon stick
 - iii. Umbrella bag
 - iv. Party hat
- A. (iii)
 - B. (iii) , (iv)
 - C. (ii) , (iii) and (iv)
 - D. All of the above**

Quiz Content

3. Licensed hotels or licensed guesthouses are not allowed to provide guests with which of the following plastic products for free in their rooms?

- i. Disposable body wash packed in disposable plastic container
- ii. Disposable toothbrushes with wooden handles and plastic bristles
- iii. Disposable plastic shower caps
- iv. Disposable plastic-packed toothpaste

A. (i) , (ii)

B. (i) , (iii) , (iv)

C. (iv)

D. All of the above

Quiz Content

4. According to the new law, if licensed hotels or licensed guesthouses provide disposable plastic toiletries and grooming products (such as plastic combs and plastic nail files) to guests, they must charge a fee. Can hotels or guesthouses offset the related charges by offering rewards or discounted offers?

A. Yes, they can.

B. No, they cannot.

5. Are licensed hotels or licensed guesthouses allowed to provide disposable plastic-bottled water to guests in their rooms for free?

A. Yes, they are allowed to.

B. No, they are not allowed to.

Q&A Session



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Catering

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Hotel

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Retail

End of Session

Thank you

- For any inquiries, please call the hotline at 2838 3111 or email enquiry@epd.gov.hk
- For more information and updates on disposable plastic control, please visit the dedicated website for the Disposable Plastic Control Scheme