



SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

No. of 2025

A **BILL** to control and restrict the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of single-use plastic items to reduce the significant environmental impact of single-use plastics, including pollution of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, harm to wildlife, risks to human health and contribution to the overall waste management crisis by promoting sustainable alternatives, and safeguarding our natural resources for future generations.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the National Assembly of Saint Christopher and Nevis, and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. Short title and Commencement.

This Act may be cited as the Plastic Waste Reduction Act, 2025 and shall come into effect on the day appointed by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette.

2. Interpretation.

For the purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“alternatives” means substitute products including any goods, materials, or commodities that serve as functionally equivalent replacements for a restricted, prohibited, or otherwise regulated item under this Act;

“biodegradable material” means a material in which the degradation results from the action of naturally occurring micro-organisms such as bacteria, fungi, and algae;

“biodegradability” means

- (a) the ability of organic substances to be broken down by micro-organisms in the presence of oxygen (aerobic) to carbon dioxide, water, biomass and mineral salts or any other elements that are present (mineralization); or

(b) the breakdown of organic substances by the micro-organism without the presence of oxygen (anaerobic) to carbon dioxide, methane, water and biomass.

“Bureau of Standards” means the Saint Christopher and Nevis Bureau of Standards as established under the Bureau of Standards and Quality Act, 2021;

“Competent Authority” means the designated governmental body or agency responsible for enforcing the provisions of this Act;

“compostable material” means items that can undergo biological decomposition in a compost site such that the material breaks down into carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds, and biomass at a rate consistent with known compostable materials;

“Comptroller” means the Comptroller of Customs appointed under section 79 of the Constitution and provided for under section 4 under the Customs Act, Cap. 20.04;

“Customs and Excise Department” means the Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance as established under the Customs Act, Cap.20.04;

“Department of Environment” means the Department of the Environment established under the National Conservation and Environment Protection Act, Cap. 11.03;

“microplastics” means small plastic pieces less than five millimetres long which can be harmful to our oceans and aquatic life.

“Minister” means the Minister with responsibility for the Environment;

“plastics” means to a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic materials that use polymers as a main ingredient inclusive of single-use plastics, microplastics, and plastic packaging;

“plastic t-shirt Bags” means flexible, lightweight plastic bags with handles that resemble the shape of a t-shirt;

“reusable products” means items designed and manufactured to be used multiple times for the same purpose;

“single-use plastic” means any non-biodegradable plastic product designed to be used once and disposed of, including plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, and food packaging.

ADMINISTRATION

3. Competent Authority.

(1) For the purposes of this Act, the Department of Environment is designated as the Competent Authority.

(2) The Competent Authority shall collaborate closely with the St. Christopher and Nevis Bureau of Standards and the Customs and Excise Department to ensure the effective enforcement of the statutory provisions governing the ban.

(3) The functions of the Competent Authority shall be to:

- (a) exercise primary regulatory oversight, ensuring compliance with the Act and all applicable regulations;
- (b) conduct routine inspections of manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and other commercial entities to verify adherence to the ban;
- (c) undertake investigative actions and enforcement measures, including the issuance of notices, warnings, and administrative penalties for non-compliance;
- (d) develop and implement public awareness campaigns to educate stakeholders on compliance requirements;
- (e) maintain a compliance registry and enforcement database to monitor violations and corrective actions;
- (f) review applications;
- (g) grant licences for import;
- (h) initiate campaigns to educate the public on the importance of reducing single-use plastics, promoting reusable products, and encouraging behavioural change towards sustainability; and
- (i) regularly publish reports on enforcement activities and compliance rates to maintain transparency and trust.

(4) The Customs and Excise Department shall:

- (a) implement border control measures to prevent the importation of prohibited items under the ban;
- (b) inspect shipments, cargo, and related documentation to detect and intercept non-compliant goods;
- (c) seize and dispose of contraband in accordance with the established legal framework;
- (d) collaborate with the Competent Authority to share intelligence and enforcement data on illicit trade.

(5) The St. Christopher and Nevis Bureau of Standards shall:

- (a) establish and enforce technical standards and specifications to ensure compliance with the Act;
- (b) conduct laboratory testing and quality assessments of regulated goods;
- (c) provide technical guidance and support to businesses regarding compliance requirements.
- (d) work in coordination with the Competent Authority to certify and approve alternative products that meet regulatory standards

Prohibition and Restrictions

4. General Prohibitions

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), it is prohibited to manufacture, import, distribute or sell the single-use plastic items listed in the First Schedule.
- (2) Subject to approval by the Department of Environment, the exceptions to the prohibited single-use plastics set out in the First Schedule shall include the following:
 - (a) single-use plastic items necessary for medical and health-related purposes;
 - (b) specific industrial applications where no feasible alternatives exist; and
 - (c) items required for national security or emergency situations.

Implementation Timeline

5. Phase-Out Period.

- (1) With effect from March 31st, 2025, no person, firm or corporation shall distribute, or sell plastic t-shirt bags within Saint Christopher and Nevis.
- (2) With effect from April 30th, 2025, it shall be unlawful to import into Saint Christopher and Nevis:
 - (a) styrofoam food containers;
 - (b) single-use plastic straws;
 - (c) styrofoam egg crates.
- (3) With effect from July 31st, 2025, no person, firm or corporation shall distribute or sell within Saint Christopher and Nevis:
 - (a) styrofoam food containers;
 - (b) single-use plastic straws; or
 - (c) styrofoam egg crates.
- (4) With effect from August 31st, 2025, it shall be unlawful to import into the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis:
 - (a) single use plastic plates;

- (b) single use cups; or
- (c) single use cutlery.

(5) With effect from November 30th, 2026, no person, firm or corporation shall distribute, or sell within the Federation's territory:

- (a) single use plastic plates;
- (b) single use cups; or
- (c) single-use utensils.

6. Support for Businesses

In order to facilitate the ban on importation of plastics, the Government shall provide grants, concessions or incentives to businesses adopting sustainable alternatives and technologies.

7. Importation of Alternatives

No person, firm or corporation shall import into Saint Christopher and Nevis any single use plastic alternative unless it meets the standards listed under the *Second and Third Schedule*.

8. Licensing for the Import of Alternatives

No person, firm or corporation shall import biodegradable alternatives without first obtaining an import licence from the Competent Authority.

9. Application Process

(1) Where a person is desirous of importing an alter

native to plastics into Saint Christopher and Nevis, that person shall submit an application to the Competent Authority with supporting documentation, including

- (a) product descriptions;
- (b) biodegradability certificates;
- (c) compliance proof; and
- (d) supply chain details.

(2) The application submitted under subsection (1), shall be reviewed by the Competent Authority within fourteen (14) days, and a decision shall be communicated in writing to the Applicant.

(3) Where the Competent Authority so determines, it may

- (a) request additional information; or

(b) require inspections during the review.

(4) The Application process shall not be considered to be complete until all information including any requests made under subsection (3) has been submitted.

10. Eligibility for Licensing.

An Applicant for a licence under section 10 shall:

(a) provide proof that the alternatives to be imported meet biodegradability standards defined by the Bureau of Standards, ensuring that the alternative is able to decompose within an acceptable time frame under natural conditions;

(b) submit certifications confirming that the alternatives are free from harmful chemicals, microplastics, or other prohibited substances; and

(c) demonstrate a traceable supply chain that is compliant with environmental and safety standards.

11. Licence Fees

An applicant shall be required to pay the following fees

(a) a non-refundable application fee as set out in the Fifth Schedule;

(b) an annual renewal fee as set out in the Fifth Schedule; and

(c) any other relevant fees as may be prescribed by the Competent Authority.

12. Licence Duration and Renewal

A licence granted pursuant to this Act, shall be valid for one (1) year.

13. Monitoring and Inspection

(1) The Competent Authority may conduct periodic inspections on the premises of a licensee to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) All importers of plastics or alternatives shall maintain import records for at least five (5) years and make those records available for inspection upon request by the Competent Authority.

14. Revocation and Suspension of License

(1) Where a licensee acts in contravention of importation requirements, the relevant licence may be suspended or revoked.

(2) The Competent Authority shall inform a licensee in writing where there has been a contravention of any import requirements and shall afford the licensee an opportunity to make representation as to why his or her licence should not be suspended or revoked.

(3) Where the Competent Authority suspends or revokes a licence, notice of that decision shall be communicated to the licensee in writing and the licensee may appeal to the Minister in respect of that suspension or revocation within 14 days of receipt of that notice.

15. Offences.

A person who contravenes the provisions of this Act such as manufacture, import or distribute any items under Schedule 1 commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction

- (a) to a fine not exceeding three thousand dollars in respect of a first offence; and
- (b) to a fine not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars in respect of a second or subsequent offence

16. Exemptions.

- (1) The Minister may grant exemptions to the provisions of this Act based on justifiable reasons.
- (2) Any exemptions made by the Minister shall be granted in writing and may be subject to such terms and conditions as he or she may determine.

17. Regulations

The Minister may make regulations for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

18. Act binds the Crown

This Act binds the Crown.

FIRST SCHEDULE

List of Banned Single-Use Plastic Items

- T- shirt plastic bags
- Plastic straws
- Plastic stirrers
- Plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons)
- Plastic plates and cups
- Certain types of plastic packaging
 - Styrofoam food containers
 - Egg crates
 - Food packaging

SECOND SCHEDULE

LABELLING STANDARDS

- ASTM D 883 Standard terminology related to plastics
- ISO 472 Plastics – vocabulary and amendment
- ISO 17088 Specifications for compostable plastics
- ASTM D 6400 Standard Specification for labelling of plastics designed to be aerobically composted in municipal or industrial facilities
- ASTM D 6868 Standard Specification for labelling of end items that Incorporate Plastics and
Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be
Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities

- ENVIRONMENTAL LABELLING STANDARDS
- ISO 14020 Environmental labels and declarations — General principles
- ISO 14021 Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims
(Type II environmental labelling)
- ISO 14024 Environmental labels and declarations – Type I environmental labelling –
principles and procedures

THIRD SCHEDULE

Labelling Standards for Biodegradable Products

Labelling Requirements for Biodegradable Products

1. All biodegradable products that are imported, produced, or sold within the jurisdiction must be clearly labelled to indicate their biodegradable nature and appropriate disposal methods.

2. Labels must include: a) The term "Biodegradable" clearly marked on the product. b) The type of biodegradable used (e.g., PLA, PHA). c) Certification of composability or biodegradability from a recognized authority. d) Instructions for proper disposal, emphasizing composting where facilities are available. e) Information on the expected time frame for biodegradation under specified conditions.

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3. The labelling must be easily readable and prominently displayed on the product packaging.
4. The competent authority is responsible for establishing detailed labelling standards and ensuring compliance.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

Application for Import License for Biodegradable Alternatives Products

Application for Import License

*For the Import of Biodegradable Alternatives Products under the Bureau of Standards
(Specification and Labelling for Biodegradable Products) Regulations 2025*

1. Applicant Information

- Name of Applicant (Business Entity or Individual):
- Type of Applicant:

Business Entity

Individual (Importer/Distributor)

Other: _____

- Contact Person:
- Position/Role:
- Business Address:
- Email Address:
- Phone Number:
- Website (if applicable):

2. Product Information

- Product Name(s) (Biodegradable Alternatives):
- Description of Product(s):
- Material Composition of Product(s)
- Country of Origin:
- Estimated Volume/Quantity of Import per Year:

3. Compliance with Biodegradability Standards

- Certification of Biodegradability (Please attach):

Certificate from recognized body confirming biodegradability

Lab analysis report (if applicable)

Other documentation (Please specify): _____

- Compliance with Bureau of Standards (Specification and Labelling for Biodegradable Products) Regulations 2025:

Yes

No

- o If "No," please explain:

4. Supply Chain and Manufacturing Information

- Name of Manufacturer(s):
- Manufacturing Location(s):
- Are you able to provide a traceable supply chain for your products?

Yes

No

- Attach any relevant supply chain documentation.

Yes

No

5. Labelling and Packaging

Does the product packaging comply with the labelling requirements set by the Bureau of Standards Regulations 2025?

Yes

No

If "No," please explain:

-
- Attach product label samples and packaging details.

Yes

No

6. Environmental Impact and Waste Management

- Do you have a waste management plan for the biodegradable alternative products?

Yes

No

- Describe the waste management practices you intend to follow:

7. Additional Documentation (Please Attach)

- Certificate of Business Registration
 - Proof of Environmental Compliance
 - Proof of Importer Status
 - Importer's or Manufacturer's Environmental Impact Statement
 - Any other relevant documents:
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8. *Declaration*

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false or misleading information may result in the refusal or revocation of the import license. I further agree to comply with the requirements set forth under the *Bureau of Standards (Specification and Labelling for Biodegradable Products) Regulations 2025* and all other relevant laws and regulations.

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

9. *Submission Instructions*

Please submit this completed form along with all required attachments to:

Department of Environment

Caraibes Import Building

Bird Rock

For inquiries, contact the Department of Environment, 1869-467-1081 or Doe@gov.kn.

For Official Use Only

- License Application ID: _____
- Date Received: _____
- Reviewed By: _____
- Application Status:

Approved

Denied

Pending Further Review

- Additional Notes/Conditions:

FIFTH SCHEDULE

(Section 11)

Fees

Fee for the import license XCD\$100

- A non-refundable application fee of one hundred dollars shall be payable upon submission of an application for a license.
- A licensee shall pay an annual renewal license fee of fifty dollars on or before on or before the date of expiration of the license

SIXTH SCHEDULE

(Section 16)

EXEMPTED SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS

1. Single-use plastic items used to maintain public health and in compliance with food safety standards, including packaging used by wholesalers and retailers to distribute raw meat (fresh, chilled or frozen), raw fish (fresh, chilled or frozen), flour, sugar, rice or baked goods.
2. Single-use plastic items used for medical purposes, inclusive of equipment and protective gear.
3. Trays made of polystyrene used for packaging fresh, chilled or frozen meat, fish or processed fruit and vegetables, whether fresh, chilled, frozen or processed.
4. Plastic straws attached to small tetra-pak boxes
5. Bags that are part of the packaging. These include:
 - a. Bags that are an integral part of the packaging in which goods are sealed for sale (e.g., pre-packed bread, pre-packed fruits, and vegetables).
 - b. Bags used for transporting live animals (e.g., fish or insects).
 - c. Bags used for packaging medical supplies and health services.

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- d. Bags used to wrap flowers or potted plants.
- e. Bags used to protect tires.
- f. Bags used to contain food sliced or prepared to order.
- g. Bags sold as trash bags or food storage bags.
- h. Bags used to package loose items such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, baked goods
- i. Bags used in agriculture such as grow bags for vegetables

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Lanein K. Blanchette
Speaker

Passed by the National Assembly this day of , 2025.

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Trevlyn Stapleton
Clerk of the National Assembly