



St. Kitts and Nevis Single-Use Plastic Ban & Licensing System Factsheet

by The Department of Environment, St. Kitts-Nevis

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis has initiated a comprehensive three-phase plan to eliminate single-use plastics, aiming to protect the environment and promote sustainability.

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAN PHASE-OUT PLAN WITH PROHIBITED ITEMS

PHASE 1: T-Shirt Plastic Shopping Bags



T-Shirt Plastic Bags (Checkout Bags) are commonly used to transport purchased items from a store to customers at the point of sale. These bags are intended for single-use only.

Phase One Details:

- Import Ban: Effective **December 31, 2024**
- Ban on Distribution, Sale, and Manufacture: Effective **March 31, 2025**

PHASE 2: Styrofoam Containers and Plastic Straws



Styrofoam products, including containers, plates, bowls, egg crates, plastic straws and other items, are designed for single-use. These items are commonly distributed at restaurants, bars, and other establishments that sell food and drinks. They are typically used for packaging, serving, or storing food.

Phase Two Details:

- Import Ban: Effective **April 30, 2025**
- Ban on Distribution, Sale, and Manufacture: Effective **July 31, 2025**

PHASE 3: Single-Use Plastic Cups, Plates, and Utensils



Plastic cups, plates, utensils, and other similar items are designed for single-use. These products are commonly distributed at restaurants, bars, and other food service establishments. They are typically used for serving, eating, and drinking, and are intended to be disposed of after use.

Phase Three Details:

- Import Ban: Effective **August 31, 2025**
- Ban on Distribution, Sale, and Manufacture: Effective **November 30, 2025**

PROPOSED LICENSING SYSTEM

To ensure that only genuine environmentally friendly alternatives are imported, manufactured and distributed, the Ministry of Environment et al is implementing a licensing system based on internationally recognized labelling and environmental standards.

The system is designed to:

- Prevent misleading environmental claims (greenwashing).
- Ensure biodegradable and compostable products meet strict criteria.
- Promote transparency and accountability in the market.

EXEMPTIONS

The ban does not include:

- ✓ Plastic bottles
- ✓ Hard plastics used in homes and gatherings
- ✓ Trash bags
- ✓ Plastic bags used for packaging bread, meat, and other perishable items
- ✓ Biodegradable plastic bags

ADOPTED NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR LABELLING AND CERTIFICATION

Labelling Standards for Plastics

- ISO 472 – Plastics – vocabulary and amendment
- ISO 17088 – Specifications for compostable plastics
- ASTM D 883 – Standard terminology related to plastics
- ASTM D 6400 – Standard for plastics designed to be aerobically composted in municipal or industrial facilities
- ASTM D 6868 – Standard for labelling end items incorporating plastics and polymers as coatings/additives with paper and other substrates for composting

Environmental Labelling Standards

- ISO 14020 – General principles for environmental labels and declarations
- ISO 14021 – Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labelling)
- ISO 14024 – Type I environmental labelling – principles and procedures

Rationale

This initiative supports St. Kitts and Nevis' vision of becoming a Sustainable Island State and aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



Regional Context

With this policy, St. Kitts and Nevis joins over 100 countries, including 12 Caribbean nations such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, in banning single-use plastics.



The Honourable Dr. Joyelle Clarke, Minister of Environment, Climate Action, and Constituency Empowerment, emphasized that this ban is a decisive step toward sustainability, ensuring that only verified eco-friendly products enter the market.