

KENYA'S Plastic Bag Policy



Kenya joins over 40 countries that have made plastic bags illegal, in a positive effort to reduce the impact on our environment. However, there may be implications for our guests travelling to this region, as the use, manufacture and importation of all plastic bags is now illegal in Kenya. Please take note that if you are travelling to Kenya, plastic bags, including duty free bags, will be confiscated at the airport. Fines and penalties may be punitive.

EXEMPTIONS

CATEGORY 1: PLASTIC CARRIERBAGS

All bags in this category are banned. For clarity these are bags commonly known as "Juala" that are used as secondary packages for items in shops, markets etc. There is no contention in this category of banned plastic as there are **NO EXEMPTIONS**



CATEGORY 2: FLAT BAGS

Flat bags used for carrying items outside industrial setting e.g. groceries, garbage, are banned. However, in this category **EXEMPTION** is extended for bags used for industrial primary packaging where the product is direct contact with the plastic and is done at the source. The exemption is subject to:

1. Extended Producer/User Responsibility and/or effective Take Back Schemes
2. Legibly and permanently labelled bags to indicate the name of the industry manufacturing the product, the end-user and physical addresses for ease of monitoring, traceability and therefore ease of enforcement intervention.
3. Keeping of inventory/record with the aim of implementing the take backscheme.



CATEGORY 3: FLAT BAGS USED AS GARBAGE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE LINERS

Hazardous waste liners are exempted so long as they are color-coded, 1 permanently labelled and are incinerated together with the waste.

Garbage Liners are also exempted on condition that they are clearly labelled and have demonstrated effective and efficient Extended Producer/User Responsibility and/or effective Take Back Schemes. The liners will **NOT** be dumped together with the waste but will be emptied and reused or recycled by the licensed waste collector and transporter.



CATEGORY 4: DUTY FREE SHOPBAGS

The ban applies to the use, manufacture and importation of the banned plastics within Kenya. Since duty free shops at airports are considered to be outside the Kenyan territory, bags used at this point are not affected by the ban. However, any traveller coming into Kenya with duty free bags shall be required to leave the same at the entry points.

ALTERNATIVES

Following the above, the following guideline on the potential alternatives has been agreed with KEBs;

1. All bags made from non-plastic materials e.g. jute/sisal, Paper, cloth, Papyrus



2. Woven, non-woven or laminated polypropylene plastic bags



3. Polyolefin fibre bags



4. 100% biodegradable bags (starch and cassavabags)



The 2 & 3 options are subject to the development of the standard by KEBs whose process has already started. The standard development will be based on the following parameters: -

- The specific material;
- Gauge;
- Tensile Strength
- Basting Strength
- Toxicity of the material and its safety for use (Heavy metals will also be tested among others).



TANZANIA'S Plastic Bag Policy



As of June 1, 2019 all plastic carrier bags, regardless of their thickness will be prohibited from being imported, exported, manufactured, sold, stored, supplied and used in Tanzania including Zanzibar.

However, plastic or plastic packaging for medical services, industrial products, construction industry, agricultural sector, foodstuff, sanitary and waste management are not prohibited.

Visitors to Tanzania are advised to avoid carrying plastic carrier bags or packing plastic carrier bags or items in plastic carrier bags in the suitcase or hand luggage before embarking on visit to Tanzania. Special desk will be designated at all entry points for surrender of plastic carrier bags that visitors may be bringing into Tanzania.

Plastic carrier items know as "Ziplock bags" that are specifically used to carry toiletries will be permitted as they are expected to remain in the permanent possession of visitors and are not expected to be disposed in the country.

The Government does not intend for visitors to Tanzania to find their stay unpleasant as the ban is enforced. However, the Government expects that, in appreciation of the imperative to protect the environment and keep the country clean and beautiful, the visitors will accept minor inconveniences from the plastic bag ban.

