



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

"When People Put the Environment First, Development Lasts."

Press Release

For Immediate Release
13 July 2020

IMPORTATION OF PROHIBITED PLASTIC PRODUCTS NO LONGER PERMITTED

This notice serves as a **reminder to all importers, customs brokers**, and members of the general public that the Environmental Protection (Pollution from Plastics) Regulations, 2020, came into force on January 15th, 2020. This legislation regulates the importation, manufacture, sale and possession of Restricted and Prohibited Products listed in the Schedules of the Regulations.

Kindly be advised that there has been no adjustment to the date prohibiting the importation of products listed in Schedule II of the Regulations, which is April 15, 2020, and is now passed. Therefore, the **importation of prohibited products is no longer permitted**. Any official releases regarding timelines will be informed via the Government of Belize Press Office.

You can also visit the DOE website and follow our social media accounts to remain informed.

For further information, please contact:

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END

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The timeline for the prohibition of listed products is as follows:

- (a) the importation of products listed in Schedule II three (3) months after the enactment date of this legislation;
- (b) the manufacture of products listed in Schedule II six (6) months after the enactment date of this legislation;
- (c) the sale of products listed in Schedule II nine (9) months after the enactment date of this legislation; and

(d) the possession of products listed in Schedule II twelve (12) months after the enactment date of this legislation.

The list of single-use plastic products to be prohibited as per Schedule II of the Environmental Protection (Pollution from Plastics) Regulations, 2020, is as follows:

- Single-use styrofoam and plastic “clamshells”
- Single-use styrofoam and plastic plates, bowls, and cups and lids
- Single-use plastic forks, knives, spoons, sporks, and cutlery
- Single-use plastic carrier bags commonly referred to as shopping bags and/or T-shirt bags
- Single-use plastic drinking straws