

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: February 16,2021

Report Number: JM2021-0002

Report Name: Ban on Plastic

Country: Jamaica

Post: Kingston

Report Category: Agricultural Trade Office Activities

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Jamaica has implemented the third phase of a plastics ban, this final phase became effective January 1, 2021. The overall ban on plastics, implemented in 2019, focused on the import, manufacture, distribution and use of specific types of single-use plastic carriers.

Implementation of the ban on plastic

Starting in January 2019, the Government of Jamaica began a phased implementation of a plastics ban based on two Ministerial Orders the GoJ signed and gazetted on December 24, 2018. The two Acts (Trade Act 2018, Section 8 (1), (a), (b) and (c), and the NRCA Act Section 32 (1) (b), a 'Trade Plastic Packaging Material Order' and a 'Plastic Packaging Prohibiting Order) banned the import, distribution, manufacture and use of commercial quantities of single use plastics. <https://jis.gov.jm/two-ministerial-orders-signed-for-plastic-ban/>.

The first phase of the ban was implemented in January 1, 2019 and focused on the import, manufacture, distribution and use of specific types of single-use plastic carriers below 25-gallon capacity packaging. The second phase went into effect in January 2020, and included polystyrene foam along including the other materials from phase one.

The GoJ subsequently announced that the third phase of the plastic ban would be effective from January 1, 2021. This phase relates to the import, distribution, manufacture and use of commercial single-use plastic bags of dimensions not exceeding 24"x 24" (610mm X 610mm), and thickness of 2.5 mils (0.06mm). The third phase of the ban also includes drinking straws made wholly or in part of polyethylene or polypropylene, manufactured for single-use, and attached to, or forming part of the packaging of juice boxes or drink pouches.

According to the Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, businesses and consumers will have until June 2021 to become fully compliant with the measures under the third phase of the ban on single-use plastics. <https://jis.gov.jm/jamaicans-have-until-june-to-become-compliant-with-third-phase-of-plastic-ban/>.

The Government of Jamaica pointed out that bags used for packaging and maintaining public health or food safety standards will not be banned. This applies to plastics that are essential for the maintenance of food and safety standards and include plastics used to package raw meat, flour, sugar, rice and baked goods, such as bread. In some instances, the use of plastic bags will be allowed. However, manufacturers will have to apply to the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) for exemptions.

Attachments:

No Attachments.