

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Chile Restricts Single-Use Plastic

**Country:** Chile

**Post:** Santiago

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

On August 13, 2021, the Chilean Ministry of Environment published Law 21,368 in the Official Gazette. The new measure greatly limits single-use plastic products and encourages the reuse and recycling of plastics. The measure will take effect six months after publication. This law is an addition to a 2016 measure setting new measures for waste management and recycling.

## **Chile Publishes New Norms to Restrict Single Use Plastics**

On August 13, 2021, the Chilean Ministry of Environment published in the Official Gazette (the equivalent to the CFR) [Law 21,368](#). The new law limits the use of single-use plastic products and encourages the reuse and recycling of plastics. The measure will take effect six months after publication. This law is an addition to a 2016 measure setting new measures for waste management and recycling.

The new restrictions will prohibit the delivery of single-use plastic products to food service establishments, regardless of the origin or source of the material. The food service establishments most impacted will likely include supermarkets, restaurants, corner stores, and fast-food chains. Outside of food service, only returnable plastic bottles and non-plastic containers will be allowed. Products immediately affected after the six-month implementation period are plastic wine glasses, cups, bowls, forks, spoons, knives, chopsticks, bowls, drink mixers, straws, plates, to-go food containers, trays, sachets (sugar, mustard, mayonnaise and ketchup), and any individual lids other than bottle caps.

After the law is fully implemented, the only way single use products can remain in the market is if they contain either compostable or recyclable material and carry a “certified plastic” certificate. Certified plastics will be required to meet two conditions: First, they must contain at least 20 percent of materials produced using renewable resources (ie non-petroleum); the required percentage will increase over time. Second, certified plastics must be composable, meaning that they must biodegrade completely within one year when placed in a compost pile with other organic compostable materials.

Single use plastic bottles will not be subject to the immediate ban, but producers and users will need to begin to adopt changes. The new law requires that an increasing amount of recycled plastic be included in bottle production. The recycled material must be of Chilean origin. By 2025, bottles will be required to contain 15 percent recycled material. Required percentages will increase to 25 percent by 2030, 50 percent by 2040, 60 percent by 2050, and 70 percent by 2060. Disposable plastic bottles will only be permitted if they meet the required recycled content percentage.

Industry representatives have expressed concern with meeting the required level of recycled materials. The Chilean recycling industry is not yet well developed.

This law falls under the umbrella of [Law 20920 of 2016](#) that establishes the framework for waste management, extended producer responsibility, and promotion of recycling. This was an initiative of Congress with the sponsorship of the Ministry of Environment that will not be notified to the WTO.

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.