



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Environment Department- Ban on single use plastic items in the State w.e.f. 1.1.2020 -further clarifications-Orders issued

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ENVIRONMENT(B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.4/2020/ENVT Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 16/02/2020

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- Read 1. G.O(MS) NO 111/2019/LSGD dt 29.8.2019  
2. G.O(MS) No 6/2019/Envt dt 27.11.2019  
3. G.O(MS) No 7/2019/Envt dt 17.12.2019  
4. G.O(RT) 128/2019/Envt dt 31.12.2019  
5. G.O(RT) No.6/2020/Envt dt 17.1.2020  
6 G.O(RT) 9/2020/Envt dt 23.1.2020  
7. G.O(MS) NO. 2/2020/Envt dt 27.01.2020

ORDER

1. State Government had imposed a blanket ban on sale, manufacture, transport and storage of single use plastic items in the State w.e.f. 1.1.2020 vide G.O read as 2nd paper above. It was also ordered that compostable/bio-degradable materials having specification as stipulated in the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 could be used as a replacement/substitute for the banned single use plastic. KSPCB was authorized vide GO read as 4th paper above to do tests and verify the degradability of the compostable product and submit recommendations to Government.

2. It is now noticed that large quantities of fake compostable carry bags are entering the market circumventing the plastic ban. The public and shop owners are generally unable to distinguish them, defeating the very intention of Government to get rid of plastic from the State. In the above context, State Government vide G.O read as 7th paper above have issued further clarification listing out the alternative materials that could be used as substitutes for banned single use plastic items. Accordingly carry bags whether made of compostable materials or other materials were banned and instead only cloth or paper bags are allowed to be used as carry bags.

3. In the case of hoardings, Government have already issued detailed order vide G.O read as 1st paper above banning the use of Flex/PVC materials and replacing them with Cloth or Poly Ethylene materials only. It was clearly mentioned in the order that plastic coated cloth cannot be used. But plastic coated cloth like polyester/nylon/korean cloth continue to be used for hoardings which cannot be allowed.

4. Meanwhile Government have been receiving numerous representations from various quarters seeking clarifications/suggestions/recommendations on the banned items. In

order to consider the various issues raised in these representations and to review the general situation after the plastic ban, a Task Force was constituted vide G.O read as 5th and 6th paper above. The Task force met on 28.1.2020 and 4.2.2020 and considered all the issues that were raised after the plastic ban.

5. Based on the decisions taken by the Task Force, Government hereby reiterate and issue further clarification/order as follows:

i) **There is a complete ban on carry bags even those made of compostable materials in the State and only cloth and paper bags free from plastic coating should be used as carry bags.**

ii) Plastic/plastic coated leaves used as plates are banned from the date of this order

iii) All product attached straws and other such items that are part of branded product packaging are exempted from the ban and they come under the purview of EPR.

iv) Plastic sapling bags are banned. It should be substituted with non plastic materials. For Grow bags, compostable materials can be used.

v) Garbage bags made of Compostable materials alone should be used for collecting/segregating biomedical waste.

vi) In the wake of fake compostable products entering the market, random checks shall be done on such products (products that are allowed to use compostable materials as per G.O(MS)No.2/2020/Envt dt 27.01.2020) and the authenticity/biodegradability of the products shall be tested in the labs of NIIST, IIST and KSPCB authorized labs.

vii) Compostable products should bear the details of the company that manufacture it the agency that market it, the material specification, date of manufacture, batch no, CPCB approval details with license no. and validity etc in the form of QR code. The product shall bear the title 'this is a purely compostable product' written in English and Malayalam. The product should dissolve in Dichloromethane (Methylene dichloride) and this shall be indicated in the packaging as a preliminary test for identification.

viii) With regard to the hoardings and usage of alternative materials in place of banned Flex/PVC hoardings the following guidelines are issued

**1. The use of plastic coated cloth material for hoarding is strictly banned and only cloth (plastic free), paper (plastic free) and Poly Ethylene material should be used for hoardings as a substitute of flex/pvc hoardings.** While printing, it should carry the logos 'recyclable, pvc free' expiry date, name of the printing unit and printing no. The details of the consumer must be registered in the shop. For banners carrying programme details, they shall be deemed to expire after the programme date and those banners/hoardings having no expiry date are deemed to expire after 30 days and will have to be removed by the installing agency.

2. All the printing units in the State should publicize that only compostable materials will be used for printing purpose and this must be exhibited.

3. Those found to be violating the Government order will be liable to pay fine as specified in the G.O read as 1st and 2nd above, eventually leading to cancellation of license

(By order of the Governor)  
**DR. USHA TITUS**  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

To:

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Govt of India
2. All the District Collectors
3. All the Department Heads
4. All Heads of Public Sector Units /Autonomous bodies
5. The Secretary to Governor, Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram
6. The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Thiruvananthapuram
7. The Secretary, Kerala Public Service Commission
8. The Registrar, Kerala Administrative Tribunal (including covering letter)
9. The Registrar, Kerala High Court, Ernakulam
10. The Registrar, Kerala Lokayuktha, Thiruvananthapuram
11. The Member Secretary, State Planning Board, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram
12. The Secretary, State Information Commission, Thiruvananthapuram
13. The Registrar, Kerala/Calicut/CUSAT/Kannur/Mahatma Gandhi Universities

14. The Registrar, Kerala Agriculture University, Mannuthy, Thrissur
15. The Registrar, Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady P.O, Ernakulam
16. The Registrar, Kerala University of Health and Allied Science, Thrissur – 680596
17. The Registrar, Kerala Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Science University, Pookode, Wayanad
18. The Registrar, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Panangad, Kochi
19. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board
20. The Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board
21. The Managing Director, Clean Kerala Company
22. Executive Director, Suchitwa Mission
23. CIPET (Institute of Plastic Technology), Kochi
24. Kerala Plastic Manufacturers Association
25. All Depts in Government Secretariat (to give direction to all institutions under their control)
26. General Administration (SC) Department
27. Stock File/Office Copy (Envf.B2/198/2018-Envf)

Copy to:-

1. Private Secretary to Chief Minister
2. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary
3. . PA to Principal Secretary

Forwarded /By order



Section Officer