

Your submission to Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

Insinc Products Ltd

Reference no: 5901

Submitter Type: Business / Industry

Clause

1. Do you agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand, including those made of degradable (eg, oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

I agree in principle but think that compostable bags should be acceptable

Clause

2. We have proposed a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. This could include under 50 microns or under 70 microns in thickness. If you agree with a mandatory phase out, which option do you prefer, and why?

Position

less than 70 microns in thickness

Notes

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

3a. If yes, what are they and why should they be exempt?

Notes

I think compostable bags are an acceptable alternative to plastic and are a different classification to degradable/oxo-degradable bags. There should be strict guidelines around what types of bags can be classified as compostable

Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

Position

Yes - 50 microns or less in thickness

Notes

Clause

4a. If yes, please explain how a phase out would be likely to impact on you.

Notes

We sell on behalf of importers direct to others/businesses and residential. We don't stock product so there would be no impact other than removing them from sale

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

It is a good plan to remove single use plastic from the environment. It would be contradictory to allow some businesses to use them and not others.

Clause

6. If smaller retailers are exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags and they are defined by their number of full-time equivalent employees, what should that number be?

Notes

I don't think they should be exempt however 5 or less staff would define small to me

Clause

7. The proposed mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags is at least six months from when regulations are Gazetted , subject to consultation. Do you agree with this timing?

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

8. Do you agree that the benefits expected from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed the costs expected from implementing the phase out? Why / why not? Please consider both monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits (those that can be measured by money as well as those that can't).

Position

Yes

Notes

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

I think compostable bags are a good alternative, paper bags are now also available. If this becomes mandatory the price for non-single use bags will reduce in price due to high demand. More of these will also be imported.

Clause

10. How can people be encouraged to reuse multiple-use shopping bags enough times to offset the environmental impacts of producing them? (select one or more)

Position

national information campaign and mobile phone app for shoppers

Notes

There needs to be a lot of advertising around this and replacement bags easily accessible. Voluntary schemes will be very hard for small retailers to implement and make them open to possible abuse from customers.

Clause

11. What would help you and your family adjust to life without single-use plastic shopping bags?

Notes

Advertising around shopping centres to remind us to take our bags into the shops

Clause

12. How can data on single-use plastic shopping bags and other single-use plastics entering the market and monitoring of reductions be improved?

Notes

I don't know how this is currently monitored