



24 January 2023

(23-0563)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, dated 24 January 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of New Zealand.

Title: Notification of final measures for Tranche 2 of Reducing the impact of plastic on our environment - moving away from hard-to-recycle and single-use items

| Reason for Addendum: | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Comment period changed - date: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Notified measure adopted - date: 28 November 2022; The Waste Minimisation (Plastic and Related Products) Amendment Regulations 2022 were finalised on 28 November 2022 and can be accessed here: Waste Minimisation (Plastic and Related Products) Amendment Regulations 2022 (SL 2022/312) Contents – New Zealand Legislation. Small changes were made to the proposals of the consultation document following consultation with industry on the Tranche 2 regulations. These are outlined in the description below. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notified measure published - date: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Notified measure enters into force - date: 1 July 2023 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Text of final measure available from ¹ : Waste Minimisation (Plastic and Related Products) Amendment Regulations 2022 (SL 2022/312) Contents – New Zealand Legislation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Notified measure withdrawn or revoked - date: Relevant symbol if measure re-notified: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Content or scope of notified measure changed and text available from ¹ : New deadline for comments (if applicable): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Interpretive guidance issued and text available from ¹ : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: |

Description: The Waste Minimisation (Plastic and Related Products) Amendment Regulations 2022 were finalised on 28 November 2022, giving effect to Tranche 2 proposals as notified in *Reducing the impact of plastic on our environment - moving away from hard-to-recycle and single-use items: consultation document*. This document signalled our intention to phase out problematic single-use and hard-to-recycle plastic items over three tranches. The Tranche 2 proposals will enter into force on 1 July 2023.

¹ This information can be provided by including a website address, a pdf attachment, or other information on where the text of the final/modified measure and/or interpretive guidance can be obtained.

The Regulations prohibit the sale and manufacture of single-use plastic produce bags, plates, bowls, cutlery, as well as the sale of single-use plastic straws. Small changes were made to the proposals of the consultation document following consultation with industry on the Tranche 2 regulations. Following engagement with the health and disability sector, the regulations provide an exemption to allow certain businesses and entities to sell plastic straws to people with a health or disability condition. A time-bound exemption will also be established for plastic straws that are attached to packaging at manufacture (eg. on juice and milk boxes) to allow time for innovation and testing to take place.

The Regulations also set the requirement for produce labels (i.e. fruit and vegetable stickers) to be home-compostable (i.e. the label must meet specified certifications in the regulations) with a phased entry for imported produce. Labels applied to domestically grown produce for sale on the New Zealand market must be home compostable by 1 July 2023. With a view to minimising the effect on trade, labels applied to imported produce for sale on the New Zealand market must be home compostable by mid-2025. While the produce labels themselves must be home compostable by these dates, a home compostable label adhesive (glue) is under development and as such will be exempt from the requirement until 1 July 2025 (in line with the anticipated date for readiness as advised by label manufacturers).

Further information can be found on the Ministry Environment's website: [Phasing out hard-to-recycle and single-use plastics | Ministry for the Environment](#).
