

Plastic barrier bag

How to decide if this plastic product is banned

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EPA 1155/24: The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has developed a series of guides to assist business, industry, and community in determining whether a product is prohibited under the Single-Use and Other Plastic (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020. These documents serve as guidance tools, offering a structured pathway to help users assess the compliance status of various products.

Introduction

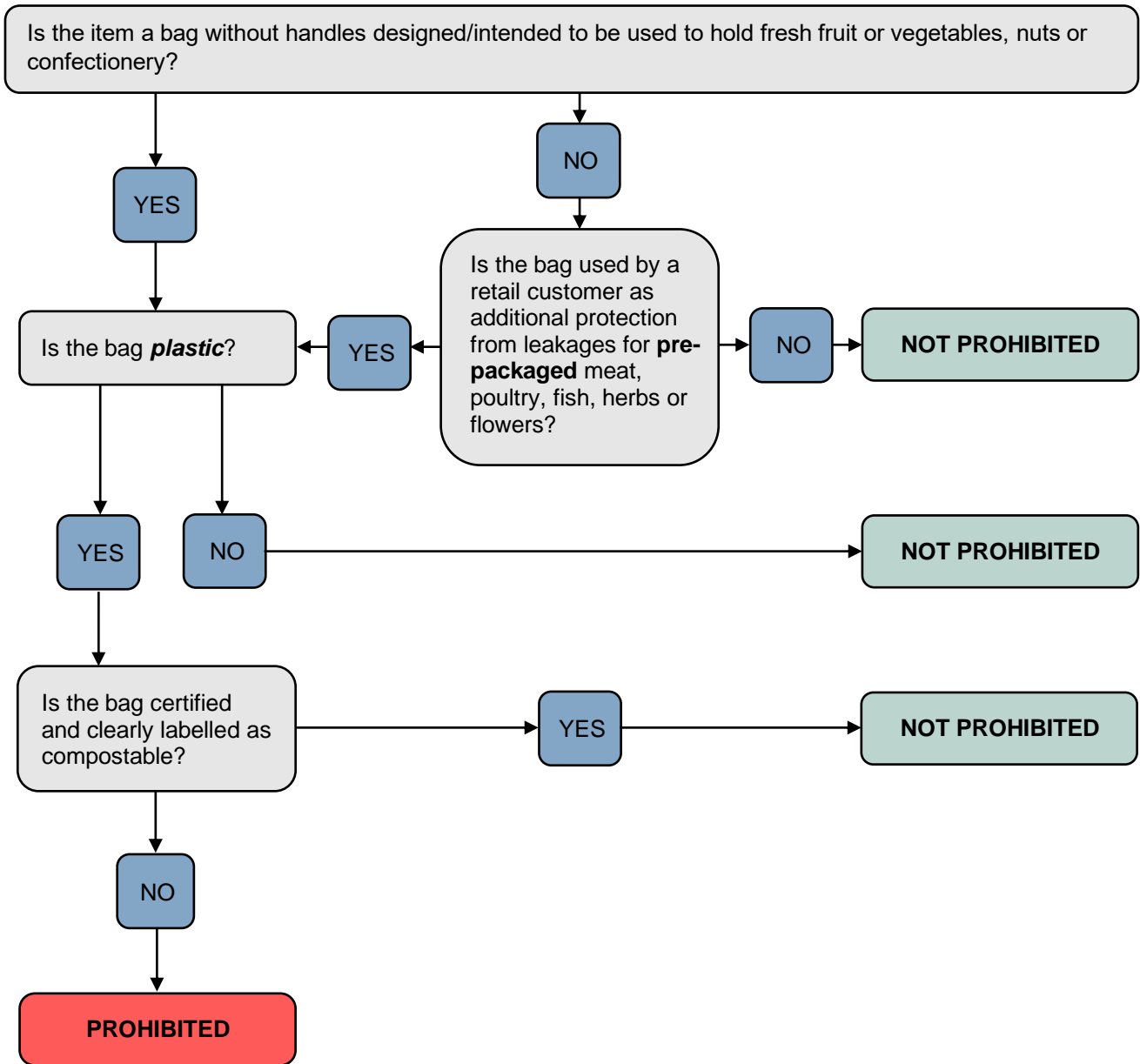
From 1 September 2024, the ban on single-use plastics will include plastic balloon sticks and ties, plastic food bag tags, plastic barrier bags and shopping bags, plastic confetti, prescribed food containers and lids, and single-use plastic beverage cups and lids.

In this guideline, users can follow the step-by-step questions provided on the next page to understand if a product falls under the prohibition. To navigate the document, users should follow the flow of questions and branches that lead to potential outcomes based on their specific product scenarios. However, it is important to note that the results derived from these documents are to assist people to understand if a particular product is prohibited. It is not to be considered as legal advice.

If you have further questions about if a product is prohibited, please contact the EPA at EPASUPteam@sa.gov.au.

If you would like information regarding reusable or compostable alternatives to plastic products, please visit the [Replace the Waste](#) website.

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Legislated definitions

Plastic means a material made from, or comprising, organic polymers, whether plant extracts or of fossil fuel origin. Note this definition includes ‘alternative’ plastics such as compostable and a specific exemption must be in the legislation if this alternative is permitted to be used for this item.

Plastic product means a product comprised, in whole or in part, of plastic.

Home compostable, in relation to a plastic product, means that the product complies with AS 5810–2010.

Industrially compostable, in relation to a plastic product, means that the product complies with AS 4736–2006.

Fish includes crustaceans and molluscs.

Legislation

Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Regulations 2021 under *Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020*

In these regulations, unless the contrary intention appears—

Act means the *Single-use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020*;

3A Definition of prohibited plastic product (section 6(1)(h) of Act)—inclusions

Plastic barrier bag means a plastic bag without handles that—

- (a) is designed or intended to be used to contain or protect unpackaged fresh fruit or vegetables, nuts or confectionery; or
- (b) is used by a retail customer as additional protection from leakages for pre-packaged meat, poultry, fish, herbs or flowers,

but does not include a plastic bag that is certified as compostable provided that—

- (c) in the case of a bag that is home compostable—it is clearly labelled as, or otherwise marked in a manner that indicates that it is, home compostable, or both home compostable and industrially compostable; or
- (d) in the case of a bag that is industrially compostable, but not home compostable—it is clearly labelled as, or otherwise marked in a manner that indicates that it is, industrially compostable.

Exemptions

Nil

Disclaimer

The criteria and approach in this document are provided for information and guidance only. It is not definitive, and is not legal or regulatory advice. The EPA reserves the right to use its discretion to determine whether an item is banned and to take regulatory action. You may wish to obtain your own advice if you are unsure whether your item is prohibited.

Further information

Legislation

[Online legislation](#) is freely available.

General information

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