

Date: 6.01.2020

Department of Environment & Climate Change
Press Release: Clarification regarding usage of Compostable Materials in the
context of Plastic Ban

Some media have reported that the Government orders on the plastic ban require clarity on items that are completely banned for sale/import/production and the items that can be made with compostable material as specified in the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016. Besides non-plastic, non-compostable alternatives need to be listed.

Government issues the following clarification in this connection:

A.	<u>Items that are completely banned</u> Both branded and non-branded Compostable alternatives/substitutes also banned	Recommended non-plastic substitutes
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry bags irrespective of thickness, made of plastic 2. Sheets made of plastic, for single-use spread on tables in function venues, spread on plates while serving food 3. Plates, cups and decorative materials made of Styrofoam or Thermocol 4. Single-use utensils like cups, plates, dishes, spoons, forks, straw, stirrer, made of plastic 5. Non-woven bags, plastic flags, plastic bunting 6. Plastic packets for packing fruits and vegetables 7. Plastic drinking water pouches 8. PET/PETE drinking water bottles less than 500ml 	<p>Cloth, paper bags</p> <p>Paper spread</p> <p>Glass, ceramic, steel cups, plates, paper and plant-based decorations</p> <p>Glass, ceramic, steel, wooden cups, plates, dishes, spoons, forks, straw, stirrer</p> <p>Cloth paper bags, flags, bunting</p> <p>Paper and cloth bags</p>
B.	Banned Items for which compostable substitutes can be used	Recommended Compostable substitute
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plastic-coated paper cups, plastic-coated paper plates, plastic-coated paper bowls, plastic-coated paper bags 	<p>Paper cups with PLA-coating, certified by CPCB and IS: 17088 compliant</p>

	2. Garbage Bags, including for hospital use, made of plastic	Compostable plastic garbage bags, certified by CPCB and IS: 17088 compliant
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Compostable materials should adhere to the following guidelines -

1. The compostable plastic product shall have approval from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the certificate issued by CPCB shall be valid at the time of manufacture/sale/stocking/marketing of the product/s
2. The compostable plastic material shall bear details of the company that manufactures, agency that markets, the material specification, date of manufacture, batch number, CPCB approval details with license number and validity etc., in the form of QR code.
3. The product shall bear the title **'this is a purely compostable plastic product'** written in both English and Malayalam.
4. The product shall dissolve in Dichloromethane (Methylene dichloride) and this shall be indicated in the packaging bag/cover/sheet material, as a preliminary test for identification. This shall be printed on the product as **'This product dissolves in Dichloromethane (Methylene dichloride)'**