

Charter, Code and Policies

City of Portland

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Chapter 17.103 Prohibition and Restrictions on Single-Use Plastic

Table of Contents

(Printable Version)

- Note

17.103.100 Definitions for Prohibition on Polystyrene Foam Food Containers (PSF).

17.103.110 Prohibition on Certain PSF Uses.

17.103.120 Exemptions for PSF Use.

17.103.200 Purpose for Prohibition on Single-Use Plastic Checkout Bags.

17.103.210 Definitions for Prohibition on Single-Use Plastic Checkout Bags.

17.103.220 Checkout Bag Regulation.

17.103.300 Definitions for Restrictions on Single-Use Plastic Serviceware.

17.103.310 Restrictions on Single-Use Plastic Serviceware.

17.103.400 Authority of Director to Adopt Rules.

17.103.410 Enforcement and Penalties.

17.103.420 Severability.

- Note

(Chapter replaced by Ordinance No. 189271, effective January 4, 2019.)

17.103.100 Definitions for Prohibition on Polystyrene Foam Food Containers (PSF).

As used in Sections 17.103.100 through 17.103.120, the following terms have the following meanings:

A. "Food vendor" means any restaurant or retail food vendor.

B. "Food packager" means any person, located within the City of Portland, who places meat, eggs, bakery products, or other food in packaging materials for the purpose of retail sale of those products.

C. "Nonprofit food provider" means a recognized tax-exempt organization which provides food as a part of its services.

D. "Prepared food" means food or beverages which are served on the vendor's premises without preparation, or are prepared on the vendor's premises by cooking, chopping, slicing, mixing, brewing, freezing or squeezing. Prepared food does not include any raw uncooked meat or eggs. Prepared food may be eaten either on or off the premises.

E. "Person" means any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other organization or group however organized.

F. "PSF" means any material composed of polystyrene and having a closed cell air capacity of 25 percent or greater, or a density of less than 0.787 grams per cubic centimeter based on an average polystyrene density of 1.05 grams per cubic centimeter, as determined by an analytical testing laboratory.

G. "Restaurant" means any establishment, located within the City of Portland, selling prepared food to be eaten by customers. Restaurant includes a sidewalk food vendor.

H. "Retail Food Vendor" or "Vendor" means any store, shop, sales outlet or other establishment, including a grocery store or a delicatessen, located within the City of Portland, which provides prepared food.

17.103.110 Prohibition on Certain PSF Uses.

On and after January 1990, no restaurant or retail food vendor shall serve prepared food in any PSF products.

17.103.120 Exemptions for PSF Use.

The City Council, or its appointee, may exempt a food vendor, food packager or nonprofit food provider from the requirements of this Code for a one-year period, upon showing by the applicant that the conditions of this Code would cause undue hardship. The phrase undue hardship, shall be construed to include, but not be limited to:

- A. Situations where there are no acceptable alternatives to PSF packaging for reasons which are unique to the vendor or provider;
- B. Situations where compliance with the requirements of this Code would deprive a person of a legally protected right. If a request for exemption is based upon a claim that a legally protected right would be denied if compliance were required and such request for exemption is denied, review of the denial shall only be by writ of review as provided for in ORS 34.010 to 34.102 and not otherwise.

17.103.200 Purpose for Prohibition on Single-Use Plastic Checkout Bags.

The purpose for the prohibition on single-use plastic checkout bags is to regulate the distribution of plastic bags at retail and food establishments. The distribution of plastic bags has significant, on-going harmful impacts upon the environment, including;

- A. Plastic bags are a major source of litter.
- B. When littered, the material is detrimental to wildlife that ingests it.
- C. The materials used in plastic bags are persistent in the environment.

17.103.210 Definitions for Prohibition on Single-Use Plastic Checkout Bags.

As used in Sections 17.103.200 through 17.103.220, the following terms have the following meanings:

- A. "Food provider" means any person in the City that provides prepared food for public consumption on or off its premises and includes, without limitation, any retail establishment, shop, sales outlet, restaurant, grocery store, delicatessen or catering truck or vehicle.
- B. "Grocery store" means any business in the City with gross annual receipts of \$2,000,000 or greater, offering for sale items of food and perishable items as well as other household goods and supplies.
- C. "Recycled paper bag" means a paper checkout bag provided by a retail establishment or food provider to customers, meeting the following requirements:
 1. Contains a minimum of 40 percent recycled content; and
 2. Is accepted for recycling in the City of Portland recycling program regulations under Chapter 17.102 of the City Code.
- D. "Reusable bag" means a bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for long-term multiple reuse and is:
 1. Made of cloth or other machine washable fabric; or
 2. Made of durable plastic that is at least 4.0 mils thick.
- E. "Retail establishment" means any sole proprietorship, partnership, limited partnership, family limited partnership, joint venture, association, cooperative, trust, estate, corporation, personal holding company, limited liability company, limited liability partnership or any other form of organization located within the City that sells or offers for sale goods to a customer.
- F. "Single-use plastic checkout bag" means a plastic bag that is provided by a retail establishment or food provider to a customer and is not a reusable bag. A single-use checkout bag does not include the following:
 1. A bag provided by a pharmacist to contain prescription medication purchased by customers of the pharmacy;
 2. A non-handled bag used to protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other purchased items when placed in a recycled paper bag or reusable bag; or,
 3. A plastic cover designed and used for protecting garments on a hanger.

17.103.220 Checkout Bag Regulation.

- A. As of March 1, 2013, the following shall provide only recycled paper bags or reusable bags as checkout bags to customers:

1. Grocery stores; or
2. Retail establishments or food providers with greater than 10,000 square feet in specific store size.

B. As of October 1, 2013, all retail establishments and food providers shall provide only recycled paper bags or reusable bags as checkout bags to customers.

17.103.300 Definitions for Restrictions on Single-Use Plastic Serviceware.

(Amended by Ordinance No. 189537, effective July 5, 2019.) As used in Sections 17.103.300 through 17.103.320, the following terms have the following meanings:

- A. "Condiment Packaging" means plastic packaging used to deliver single-serving condiments to customers. This includes but is not limited to single-serving plastic packaging for ketchup, mustard, relish, mayonnaise, hot sauce, coffee creamer, salad dressing, jelly and jam and soy sauce.
- B. "Counter Service" is when food with ordered by the customer at a counter and is either picked up at the counter by the customer or delivered to the table by restaurant staff.
- C. "Customer" means every person who purchases food or beverage that is intended to be consumed using single-use Plastic Serviceware.
- D. "Dine-in" means food and beverage that are intended to be consumed inside the place of business where the food and beverage were purchased, including without limitation cafeterias and food halls.
- E. "Electronic Orders" are food purchases conducted by smart phone, email or the website of a Retail Food and Beverage Establishment. This includes electronic ordering services that are independent of the retail food and beverage establishment.
- F. "Fast Food" is food that can be prepared quickly and easily and is sold in Retail Food and Beverage Establishments as a quick meal or to be taken out for consumption. Fast food includes drive through, take-out and delivery orders and applies to orders transacted in person, by phone or electronically.
- G. "Cafeterias" are dine-in areas within corporations, government, education and medical institutions. Cafeterias include ones managed by the institution or contracted food services.
- H. "Plastic Serviceware" means single-use plastic straws, stirrers, Utensils and Condiment Packaging. This includes compostable and biodegradable plastic (petroleum or biologically based polymer) serviceware, but does not include serviceware that are made from non-plastic materials, such as paper, sugar cane, bamboo, etc.
- I. "Retail Food and Beverage Establishments" means any retail business that provides single-use Plastic Serviceware as a component of the product delivery. This includes but is not limited to full service and limited service (or fast food) restaurants, food carts, bars, coffee and tea shops, grocery stores, convenience stores, hotels, motels, caterers and food service contractors.
- J. "Utensils" are single-use plastic utensils intended for consumption of food which include but are not limited to spoons, forks, knives, sporks and chopsticks.
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17.103.310 Restrictions on Single-Use Plastic Serviceware.

(Amended by Ordinance No. 189537, effective July 5, 2019.)

- A. As of October 1, 2019, all Retail Food and Beverage Establishments and Cafeterias, where beverages may be consumed at Dine-in areas, shall provide Plastic Serviceware only after Customer request.
- B. As of October 1, 2019, all Retail Food and Beverage Establishments and Cafeterias, where Customers order Fast Food, take-out or delivery, shall provide Plastic Serviceware to Customers only after asking if the Customer needs Plastic Serviceware and the Customer responds affirmatively. For Electronic Ordering, the Retail Food and Beverage Establishments are responsible for coordinating with any outside ordering service to prompt the Customer to select Plastic Serviceware.
- C. Exemptions. The following situations are considered exempt from the restriction on single-use Plastic Serviceware:
1. Cafeterias and Retail Food and Beverage Establishments designed for counter service may allow Customers to access a self-service station for plastic Utensils.

2. When the Plastic Serveware is attached to or packaged by the manufacturer with a beverage container before the beverage container is offered for retail sale. For example, juice boxes.
3. When the product includes an ingredient packaged with single-use Plastic Serveware. For example, a separate plastic container of dressing included within a larger salad container.
4. When free or reduced-price meals are provided as part of a social service to vulnerable populations, including without limitation, free or reduced-price meals provided by school systems, homeless shelters and programs that deliver meals to the elderly.

17.103.400 Authority of Director to Adopt Rules.

A. The Director is hereby authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of this Chapter.

B. The Director is authorized to adopt rules, procedures, and forms to implement the provisions of this Chapter.

1. Any rule adopted pursuant to this Section shall require a public review process. Not less than 10 nor more than 30 days before such public review process, notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation. Such notice shall include the place, time, and purpose of the public review process and the location at which copies of the full set of the proposed rules may be obtained.
2. During the public review, the Director shall hear testimony or receive written comment concerning the proposed rules. The Director shall review the recommendations, taking into consideration the comments received during the public review process, and shall either adopt the proposed rules, modify or reject them. If a substantial modification is made, the Director shall conduct additional public review, but no additional notice shall be required if such additional review is announced at the meeting at which the modification is made. Unless otherwise stated, all rules shall be effective upon adoption by the Director and shall be filed with the City Auditor's Portland Policy Documents repository.
3. An interim rule may be adopted by the Director without prior notice upon a finding that failure to act promptly will result in serious prejudice to the public interest or the interest of the affected parties, including the specific reasons for such prejudice. Any rule adopted pursuant to this paragraph shall be effective for a period of not longer than one year (365 days). Within 5 business days of the adoption of an interim rule, the Director shall send notice of the rule to all of the following, giving the language of the rule change, describing the purpose of the rule, and inviting the submission of comments:
 - a. Neighborhood Associations recognized by the City Office of Community & Civic Life;
 - b. District Coalitions recognized by the City Office of Community & Civic Life;
 - c. Business District Associations identified by the City Office of Community & Civic Life; and
 - d. Persons on the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability list of parties interested in administrative rules.

17.103.410 Enforcement and Penalties.

A. Violations of Chapter 17.103 shall be subject to:

1. Upon the first violation, the Director shall issue a written warning notice to the violator that a violation has occurred.
2. Upon subsequent violations, the following penalties shall apply:
 - a. \$100 for the first violation after the written warning in a calendar year;
 - b. \$200 for the second violation in the same calendar year; and
 - c. \$500 for any subsequent violation within the same calendar year.
3. No more than one penalty shall be imposed upon any single location within a 7-day period.

B. Upon making a determination that a violation of this code or regulations duly adopted pursuant to this Chapter 17.103 has occurred, the Director will send a written notice of the violation by mail to the violator specifying the violation and the applicable penalty as set forth in Subsection A.

C. Any violator receiving a notice of violation must pay to the City the stated penalty or appeal the finding of a violation to the Code Hearings Officer in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 22.10.030.

17.103.420 Severability.

If any Section, Subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Chapter. The Council declares that it would have passed this Chapter, and each Section, Subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more Sections, Subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional and, if for any reason this Chapter should be declared invalid or unconstitutional, then the remaining Section, Subsection, sentence, clause or phrases shall be in full force and effect.
