



SUSTAINABLE USE  
OF PLASTIC BAGS

**H&H**

## Uruguay joins the trend of reducing the use of plastic bags

- By law passed on August 8 by the Legislative, the prevention and mitigation of the environmental impact caused by the use of plastic bags is declared of general interest, through actions to discourage its use, promote its reuse, recycling and other forms of recovery.
- Scope of application - all plastic bags used to contain and transport products and goods that are delivered to a consumer at any point of sale or delivery are included. Certain exceptions are provided, such as bags that are used for reasons of food safety or hygiene or other well-founded cases to be established by the regulation.
- Prohibition - the manufacture, import, distribution, sale and delivery of plastic bags that are not **compostable or biodegradable** are prohibited. Furthermore, the delivery of newspapers, magazines, invoices, receipts or similar in plastic wrap is prohibited as well.
- Certification - the manufacturer or importer of the authorized bags, must obtain a certification in accordance with the regulation, in order for them to be distributed, sold or delivered.

- Other obligations for the owners of the points of sale or delivery include, among others: to promote and participate in awareness campaigns; to include in the plastic bags the identification, logo or registration to be required by the regulation; to adopt a waste reception system for plastic bags; to offer reusable bags for sale; etc.
- **Charging for the bags as a mechanism to discourage their use** - The law empowers the Executive to establish the obligation to collect a minimum price for the bags and the billing method.
- The Executive shall approve the corresponding regulation within a period of 180 days from the enactment of the law.
- **Penalties for non-compliance** - The Ministry of Housing, Territorial Planning and the Environment (MVOTMA) will be the competent authority to control compliance with the law and punish violators. The sanctions for infractions established in Law 17.283 (General Law for the Protection of the Environment) will be applicable, which include warning, public dissemination, confiscation, suspension and expiration of permits or registrations, fines (between 10 and 50,000 UR), and closure of the establishment by the Executive.

## Should you have any comments or questions:



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