



REGULATION OF
SUSTAINABLE USE
OF PLASTIC BAGS

H&H

120 YEARS

Uruguay regulates the use of Plastic Bags

- By law 19,655 passed on August 8 by the Legislative, the prevention and mitigation of the environmental impact caused by the use of plastic bags was declared of general interest and entrusted the Executive Branch with its regulation.
- **Decree N° 3/019** of January 7, 2019 regulates said law.
- 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 except for the exclusions expressly provided for by the Law. The Decree **excludes from its scope of application** certain types of plastic bags, for example, those that admit various uses made with woven plastic material or plastic fabric; those that have a certain thickness manufactured in the country with recovered or recycled materials of national origin; those in direct contact with food for human or animal consumption, except for those used for the primary containment of fruits and vegetables, etc.

Certification and Identification

- The plastic bags shall only be imported, distributed, sold or delivered if the manufacturer or the importer has obtained the **certificate of conformity** that must be issued by the Technological Laboratory of Uruguay (LATU).
- Said certificate shall be issued as long as it is an authorized plastic bag, based on criteria of biodegradability or compostability, according to internationally recognized technical standards, and provided that certain characteristics are met, including their **dimension** and **resistance**.
- The authorized plastic bags and the reusable bags excluded from the scope of the Decree must include certain identification data and identification logos:



LEY N° 19.655
USO SUSTENTABLE
DE BOLSAS PLÁSTICAS



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Obligation to collect, minimum price and billing

- Authorized plastic bags and reusable plastic bags manufactured with recycled material will have a minimum price of **0.82 Indexed Units (UI) plus VAT (approximately U\$ 4)**. The detail of the bags delivered must be discriminated in the corresponding invoice indicating the quantity and its unit price.

Register of manufacturers and importers

- The Decree creates a **Register** kept by the Environmental Agency (DINAMA) in which all individuals or legal entities that manufacture or import any type of bags must register. Existing manufacturers and importers may register before March 1, 2019.
- Said registration will have an annual validity and a Sworn Statement must be submitted to DINAMA before March 30 of each year.

Non-compliance and sanctions

- Failure to comply with the provisions of the Decree will be subject to **finer from 10 to 10,000 Readjustable Units (UR) depending on the seriousness of the infraction**, as well as other sanctions including: public disclosure, confiscation of plastic bags and suspension of up to for 180 days.

Entry into force

- The obligations and prohibitions foreseen **will be enforceable as of June 30, 2019**. Nevertheless, the prohibition of manufacturing and importing authorized and reusable plastic bags that do not comply with the characteristics and specifications established in the Decree **will be enforceable as from 1 March, 2019**.

Should you have any comments or questions:



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