

**THE NEW RULES ON SUPs & PLASTIC PACKAGING; IS YOUR BUSINESS READY?**

From this Saturday, July 3rd, The European Union will put a ban on the sale of 10 types of single-use plastic products in an effort to slow plastic pollution.

Whilst the UK is no longer a EU member, its four nations will be applying some of the SUP laws, although differences will apply in each country. Businesses in the UK will consequently be impacted; some products will be banned, whilst others will be under consumption reductions. Some products will also be impacted by marking and labelling.

Here's a quick guide as to what's changing and how this may impact distributors, manufacturers and foodservice operators. We offer a much more detailed consultancy and training service so please contact us to ensure your business is ready for these new rules.

First, let's start with the rules in the EU and which products will be affected:

**BANNED**

The list includes plastic bottle caps, cutlery and straws as well as food and beverage containers made from polystyrene. From July 2024, an additional measure takes effect; loose caps on bottles will no longer be allowed. Instead, caps will have to be affixed to the bottle. From 2025 onwards, 25% of all fizzy drink and water bottles must be made from recycled materials. This percentage will increase to 30% by 2030.

**MARKING & LABELLING**

Some products will need to contain labels stating that plastic is bad for the environment. Manufacturers of articles containing plastic will no longer be allowed to distribute unlabelled products. The label consists of a pictogram and text identifying the respective product category. The first products to be marked are hygiene and sanitary products, such as wet wipes, as well as tobacco products with plastic filters. Importantly for the food service industry, disposable beverage cups will also be captured which will impact many cup manufacturers based in the UK.

**EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (ERP)**

Companies that place products on the market will be responsible for their proper end-of-life management. Packaging waste is the main target and producers will need to contribute to ensure that it is collected and recycled appropriately.

## THE LATEST SITUATION UK ON SUPs AND PLASTIC TAX



So, how will this affect the UK and its business community? Obviously, products for export to the EU, and captured by the Directive, will be impacted. At home, new rules will also come into place for each of the four nations. The big issue is that there won't be uniformity and, because of the Northern Ireland Protocol, the sale of several SUPs, including plates and cutlery, could be banned in Northern Ireland – but not in the rest of the UK – from 1 January 2022, or even sooner.

The UK government will also introduce a nationwide Plastic Packaging Tax from next year which will be levied at a rate of £200 per metric tonne of plastic packaging that contains less than 30% of recycled plastic. The PPT will be levied on manufacturers and importers (both UK resident and non-UK resident) that manufacture (or import) ten metric tonnes of plastic packaging or more annually, and the costs may well be passed along the supply chain.

**England** is not implementing the Directive but the UK Government, through its Waste and Resources Strategy, will introduce new rules, effective from 2023, including an ERP, a DRS and increased funding on recycling.

**Wales** is likely to adopt many parts of the Directive and will publish its conclusions later this year including a ban on the key SUPs.

**Scotland** has already published its draft Environmental Protection Bill which will ban plastic cutlery, plates and stirrers, all oxo-degradable plastic products and all expanded polystyrene food and beverage containers. It will also introduce a DRS in 2023.

**Northern Ireland** must bring parts of the Directive into its own laws by 1st January 2022, as part of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

### WANT TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE RULES?

Our remote learning programme geared towards the needs of the hospitality, food-service and packaging sectors. The amount of new legislation, either imminently coming into force or on the horizon, is not only considerable but could also have a major impact on your business.

Our Elearning training programmes are bespoke to your business and will not only include information about what the new rules are but also how your business will need to adapt, ensuring that you, and your employees, stay one step ahead.

We can even adapt the packages to your different teams, such as procurement or sales.

Our training packages are not only timely and relevant to your business will enable you track which employees have completed the course and those that may need extra help.

For more information please contact **John Reeves** at [john@dtangle.co.uk](mailto:john@dtangle.co.uk)