

Circular 10 Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags

Introduced under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap. 603) ("PERO"), the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags seeks to address the problem of excessive plastic shopping bag use. The Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2013 for the full implementation of the Scheme was introduced into the Legislative Council. It was approved by the Legislative Council on 19 March 2014 and came into effect on 1 April 2015.

On 31 December 2022, the Government implemented enhancement measures, including:

- increasing the charging level per PSB from the current level of at least 50 cents to at least \$1;
- removing the present exemption for PSBs carrying frozen/chilled foodstuff items;
- tightening the exemption relating to foodstuff items such that free PSBs can only be provided when purchasing foodstuff items without packaging or not wholly contained in any packaging, or food and beverage takeaway items in non-airtight packaging, subject to the basic principle of "one free PSB per single transaction". (If the first free PSB cannot hold all of the foodstuff items, using one PSB may break the PSB, or placing all of the foodstuff items into one free PSB will compromise their quality, then one or more additional free PSB(s) could be provided.)

Any person who fails to comply commits an offence and will be liable to a fine of HK\$100,000 on the first occasion and to a fine of \$200,000 on each subsequent occasion.

For further information, please contact the Environmental Protection Department at (852) 3152 2299 or email psb@epd.gov.hk.

Hong Kong Trade Development Council

通告 10 塑膠購物袋環保徵費計劃

產品環保責任條例（香港法例第 603 章）引進的塑膠購物袋環保徵費計劃是為解決過度使用塑料購物袋的問題。向立法會提交審議的 2013 年產品環保責任（修訂）條例草案將全面實施該計劃。該草案在 2014 年 3 月 19 日被立法會批准，並於 2015 年 4 月 1 日生效。

政府於 2022 年 12 月 31 日起推行優化措施，包括：

- 每個塑膠購物袋的收費由現時最低五角提高至最低一元；
- 取消現時對盛載冰凍或冷凍食品的塑膠購物袋的豁免；
- 收緊有關食品的豁免：只有購買沒有包裝或並非完全載於任何包裝的食品，或購買以非氣密包裝的餐飲外賣，才可獲免費提供塑膠購物袋，並以每單一交易一個免費袋為基本原則。（如首個免費膠袋未能盛載所有食品、只用一個膠袋可能會令膠袋破損，或把多種食品放在同一免費膠袋會令食品的品質受損，則可額外提供一個或多個免費膠袋。）

任何人如未能遵從即屬犯法，首度被裁定犯該罪行時可被判處港幣 100,000 元罰款，而在其後每次被裁定犯該罪行時可處罰款港幣 200,000 元。

有關詳情可查詢環境保護署（電話：(852) 3152 2299 或電郵：psb@epd.gov.hk）。

香港貿易發展局