

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT**  
**DISPUR, GUWAHATI-06**

*[Handwritten signature]*

**ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR**  
**NOTIFICATION**

Dated Dispur, the 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

**No.ENG.1/2019/36** : Whereas, plastic carry bags and other plastic items used in daily life cause short term and long term environmental damage and health hazard;

And whereas, Article 48-A of the Constitution of India, inter alia, envisages that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment;

And whereas, it has come to the knowledge of the Government that, the use of plastic carry bags, banners, buntings, flex, plastic flags, plastic plates, plastic cups, plastic spoons, cling films and plastic sheets and items that are made of thermocol are causing serious environmental hazards and affects health of human beings as well as animals;

And whereas, it is observed that the plastic wastes is also causing blockage of gutters, sewers and drains apart from resulting in pollution of water bodies in urban areas;

And whereas, with a view to prevent the recurrence of such problems, the State Government in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, (Central Act 29 of 1986) in accordance with the powers delegated to the State Government of Assam under Section 23 of the said Act, vide Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India's Notification No. S.O.152 (E) dtd. New Delhi the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1988, the Department of Environment & Forests, Govt. of Assam has imposed ban on single use plastic vide Notification No. ENG.1/2019/17 dtd. 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

And whereas, the Notification has been reviewed by the state Government and in supersession of earlier Notification vide No. ENG.1/2019/17 dtd. 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 issues the following directions for imposing ban on manufacture, import, supply, sale and use of plastic carry bags/ plastic sheets /multilayered packaging less than 50 microns, plastic cups with diameter less than 60 mm and thickness less than 50 microns, short life PVC and all chlorinated plastic bags / sheets / banners / flex / buntings / flags irrespective of thickness. This notification comes into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**DIRECTION**

1. No person including shopkeeper, vendor, wholesaler, retailer, trader, hawker or salesmen shall use plastic carry bags/ plastic sheets /multilayered packaging less than 50 microns, plastic cups with diameter less than 60 mm and thickness less than 50 microns, short life PVC and all chlorinated plastic bags / sheets / banners / flex / buntings / flags irrespective of thickness. Further, no industry or person shall manufacture, import, supply, store, transport, sale and/or distribute plastic carry bags/ plastic sheets /multilayered packaging less than 50 microns, plastic cups with diameter less than 60 mm and thickness less than 50 microns, short life PVC and all chlorinated plastic bags / sheets / banners / flex / buntings / flags irrespective of thickness in the State.

Provided that, the plastic used for the following purposes and circumstances are exempted from this notification;

- a) The plastic carry bags manufactured exclusively for export purpose against any export orders in a plastic industry located in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and Export Oriented Units (EOU).
  - b) The plastic bags / multilayered film / sheet (excluding carry bags) which constitute or form an integral part of packaging in which goods are sealed prior to use at manufacturing/processing units.
  - c) The plastic bags and sheets used in Forestry and Horticulture nurseries against the orders from the Govt. Departments or from the firms concerned.
  - d) Plastic bags or plastic used for packaging of medicine.
2. That the following Officers shall enforce this direction in exercise of power conferred on them by law in their jurisdiction.
    - a) The Commissioner, Joint Commissioners, Revenue Officers, all Health Officers.
    - b) All Deputy Commissioners of the districts.
    - c) All Commissioners of City Corporations, Chief Officers, Health Officers and all Engineers of Urban Local Bodies.
    - d) All Engineers of the rank of Assistant Engineer & above and all Environmental Scientist above the rank of Environmental Scientist of Pollution Control Board, Assam

*Contd....p/2*

- e) All Assistant Commissioners of Revenue Sub Divisions.
  - f) Sub-Division / Circle Office / Panchayat.
  - g) All officers of Commercial Tax Department.
  - h) All officers of Department of Food and Civil supplies.
  - i) The Controller, Deputy Controller and Regional Officers of Legal Metrology Department.
3. Penalty for contravention of the provisions of this Notification under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 -
- i) Whoever fails to comply with or contravenes any of the provisions of this Notification or directions issued thereunder, shall, in respect of each such failure or contravention, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto five years or with fine which may extend upto one lakh rupees, or with both, and in case the failure or contravention continues, additional fine shall be imposed which may extend to five thousand rupees for every day during which such failure or contravention continues after the conviction for the first such failure or contravention in accordance.
  - ii) If the failure or contravention referred to in sub-section (i) continues beyond a period of one year after the date of conviction, the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years.
4. That the following officers shall take cognizance of offences and initiate legal action in case of noncompliance of this direction as per the powers conferred on them under Section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and to file complaint in the jurisdictional court of law on all violators.
- a) Secretary to Government of Assam, Environment and Forest Department.
  - b) Chairman and Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board, Assam.
  - c) Deputy Commissioners of the Districts.
  - d) Assistant Commissioners of Revenue Sub Divisions.
  - e) Regional Officers of Pollution Control Board, Assam.

**Explanation 1 :** "use and throwaway plastic" means items such as plastic carry bags or plastic flags, plastic sheets used for food wrapping, spreading on dining table etc. plastic plates, plastic coated tea cups and plastic tumbler, water pouches and packets, plastic straw irrespective of thickness.

**Explanation 2:** "Plastic" means any of the items mentioned in this direction made out of poly propylene (PP), non-woven poly propylene, multi layered co-extruder poly propylene, poly ethylene (PE), poly vinyl chloride (PVC), high and low density poly ethylene (HDPE & LDPE), poly styrene (PS) which is also called thermocol, poly amides (Nylon), poly ethylene terephthalate (Pet), poly methyl methacrylate (PMM) and plastic micro beads.

**Explanation 3:** The word "carry bag" will have the same meaning that is provided in Rule 3 (c) of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. In this definition exemption is provided for plastic bag that constitute or form an integral part of packaging in which goods are sealed prior to use.

**Explanation 4 :** "Multi-layered packaging" means any material used or to be used for packaging and having at least one layer of plastic as the main ingredients in combination with one or more layers of materials such as paper, paper board, polymeric materials, metalized layers or aluminium foil, either in the form of a laminate or co-extruded structure

**Explanation 5:** "Plastic sheet" means Plastic sheet is the sheet made of plastic.

**Explanation 6 :** Pollution Control Board, Assam shall be responsible for enforcement regarding the functions specified in clause (1) of Rule 12 of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Urban Local Bodies shall be responsible for enforcement regarding the functions specified in clause (2) of rule 12 of the said Rules;

**Explanation 7:** Officers as mentioned in Government of India's Notification No.S.0.394 (E) dated 16.04.1987 amended from time to time are authorized to file complaints against violation of directions included in this Notification under Section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

By order & in the name of the Governor of Assam

**Sd/- Ravi Capoor, IAS**  
Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam  
Environment & Forests Department

Memo No.ENG.1/2019/36-A  
Copy to:

Dated Dispur, the 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37.
2. The Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Assam, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21.
3. P.S. to the Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment & Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
4. P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Environment & Forest Department, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
5. The Deputy Director, Printing & Stationery, Assam Govt. Press, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21 for favour of publication of the above notification in the next issue of the Assam Gazette.

By order etc.,

*gus*  
Addl. Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,  
Environment & Forests Department

