Single-use plastics explained

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Single-use plastics explained

Type of single-use plastic container	Description	What Member States have to do
Food containers	Containing food which: (a) is intended for immediate consumption, either on-the-spot or take-away (b) is typically consumed from the receptacle, and (c) is ready to be consumed without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating, including food containers used for fast food or other meal ready for immediate consumption	Take measures to ensure ambitious and sustained reduction of these containers through measures, including e.g. consumption reduction targets, reasonable alternatives, marketing restrictions Report and monitor progress in reducing consumption (Art. 6) Ensure producers cover the costs of extended responsibility[1] (Art. 8(2)) by 5 January 2023 Inform consumers and incentivise responsible consumer behaviour[2] (Art. 10)
Food containers made of expanded polystyrene		Prohibit placement on the market (Art. 5) by 3 July 2021
Beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene	Including their caps and lids	Prohibit placement on the market (Art. 5) by 3 July 2021
Beverage containers	With a capacity of up to 3 litres, including caps and lids	Ensure they can only be placed on the market if caps and lids remain attached to containers during use (Art. 6(1)) by 3 July 2024 Ensure producers cover the costs of extended responsibility[1] (Art. 8(2)) by 5 January 2023 Inform consumers and incentivise responsible consumer behaviour[2] (Art. 10)
Food packets and wrappers made from flexible material	Containing food intended for immediate consumption from the packet or wrapper without any further preparation	Inform consumers and incentivise responsible consumer behaviour[2] (Art. 10)

1 "Producers" here includes those who import single-use plastic products and place them on the market. Examples include the costs of awareness initiatives, waste collection, cleaning up litter resulting from these products.

2 In particular about the availability of reusable alternatives, reuse and waste management options, the impact of littering, and inappropriate waste disposal.

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Source: Directive (EU) 2019/904

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