

# The EU Directive on Single Use Plastics

## What is it?

This is a directive that affects 27 members of state and addresses the need to reduce the amount of plastic entering our marine environment.

The document was published on May 28th 2018 and passed in December 2018. We currently await visibility of amendments to the directive which will become EU law in January 2021. **The UK will adopt the EU directive on single use plastic regardless of EU membership status.**

The main objective is prevention and reduction of plastic marine litter from single use plastic items and fishing gear.

Since the directive was published bio based biodegradable plastics (PLA, CPLA etc) have been brought into the plastic categorisation regardless of whether they have been derived from biomass and /or intend to biodegrade over time. Packaging items affected by this directive include straws, cutlery, paper cups and plastic cups.

## Action to be taken by the EU

### Market Restriction

Where there is a viable, suitable and sustainable alternative to a product then a market restriction (ban) will be implemented.

#### PRODUCTS AFFECTED

Plastic straws including bio plastics such as PLA cutlery.

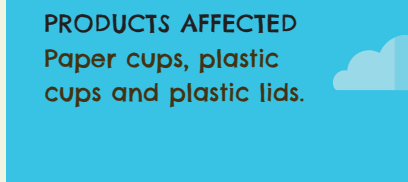


### Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Where there is no viable sustainable or suitable alternative in place, EPR (tax) will be introduced to cover the costs of collecting, transporting & recycling litter from Europe's beaches. (Rate of Levy to be defined).

#### PRODUCTS AFFECTED

Paper cups, plastic cups and plastic lids.



### Improved Markings

All products will be required to improve the communication on pack informing the consumer how to dispose of correctly.

#### PRODUCTS AFFECTED

All packaging and drink containers.



## What does this mean for you?

### STRAWS

Ban will happen in 2 phases

- UK effective early 2020
- Rest of Europe early 2021

### CUTLERY

Ban will happen in 2 phases

- France effective Jan 2020
- Rest of Europe early 2021\*

### PAPER CUPS

EPR effective early 2021\*

### PLASTIC CUPS

EPR effective early 2021\*

\*Note - we await information from DEFRA on any amendments that may alter these dates or plans.

