Circular **The New Regulation on Disposable Plastic Tableware and Other Plastic Products <NEW UPDATE>**

The Government will implement the regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products on 22 April 2024.

1. Disposable plastic tableware

The sale of expanded polystyrene (EPS) tableware and four other types of disposable plastic tableware (namely straws, stirrers, cutlery (forks, knives, spoons) and plates) will be prohibited, and so will the provision of such tableware to takeaway customers. Moreover, the provision of all disposable plastic tableware (also including cups, cup lids, food containers and food container lids) to dine-in customers at catering premises will be prohibited.

2. Other disposable plastic products

The sale and free distribution of plastic-stemmed cotton buds, balloon sticks, inflatable cheer sticks, glow sticks, party hats, oxo-degradable plastic products (regardless of disposability), umbrella bags, food sticks and plastic toothpicks, and the manufacturing of any oxo-degradable plastics products will be prohibited. Free distribution of plastic-packaged tissue paper for promotional use and non-medical use transparent gloves will also be prohibited. Moreover, hotels and guesthouses are banned from providing specified plastic toiletries and plastic-bottled water for free in guest rooms.

3. Exclusions / Exemptions

For disposable plastic tableware, (i) pre-packaged food or drinks (e.g. disposable plastic straws attached to beverage cartons) and (ii) the supply of disposable plastic straws to people with medical needs can be exempted. For other disposable plastic products, exemptions are available for the sale or supply of relevant products* under certain circumstances, including the use for forensic analysis, scientific research or experiments, medical treatments or procedures, taking medicines, for resale purposes (e.g. a business sells or supplies to another business in B2B exhibitions) or for manufacturing process.

* These exemptions are not applicable to products including (i) oxo-degradable plastic products (unless in the event that a business sells or supplies to another business for export purpose), (ii) plastic-packaged tissue paper for promotional use and (iii) non-medical use transparent gloves (unless provide to the employees for carrying out duties or work).

For further information about the new regulation, please visit https://www.cuttheplastics.hk/index.php/en/, or contact the Environmental Protection Department at (852) 5467 2494 or email to info@cuttheplastics.hk.

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