

2021 - MAR - 23

<BUSINESS NAME>
<ADDRESS>
<CITY> <PROVINCE> <POSTAL CODE>

Dear Nanaimo business owners and managers;

Re: Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw No. 7283

On February 22, 2021, Nanaimo City Council adopted Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw 2020 No. 7283 (the Bylaw). The Bylaw comes into effect on July 1, 2021. As a business that will potentially be affected by the Bylaw, we're providing you with the information you need to transition successfully. This letter and the included brochure outline the Bylaw, key dates and regulatory details that all City of Nanaimo businesses will need to follow. Please study these guidelines and prepare for the July 1, 2021 implementation date.

All businesses that provide checkout bags to customers will be regulated by the Bylaw. Please see the Bylaw's definitions and exemptions on the back of this letter to confirm if your business is affected. The Bylaw encourages the use of reusable bags by eliminating the distribution of plastic checkout bags. If a customer forgets their reusable bag, a business can provide a paper bag or reusable bag for a standardized fee, provided the bags meet or exceed the sustainable design standards as defined in the Bylaw.

We want to ensure you are well supported to phase out plastic checkout bags and prepare your paper and reusable bag inventories for the July 1, 2021 implementation date. The enclosed brochure, A Guide for Businesses, summarizes the Bylaw and provides guidance for purchasing paper and reusable bags. The City recognizes COVID-19 has impacted the supply of some paper and reusable bags. We will assess the ongoing impacts and post updates on the BYOBag project webpage.

Affected businesses are encouraged to sign up for the Checkout Bag Regulation Updates e-newsletter. The newsletter will provide updates and resources to support businesses through the transition, including a toolkit to help inform your staff and customers of the Bylaw. For more information on the Bylaw and to sign up for the newsletter, please go to the project page: www.Nanaimo.ca/goto/BYOBag. Still have questions? Please call us at 250-756-5390 or email Zero.Waste@nanaimo.ca

Sincerely,



Taaj Daliran
Manager, Sanitation, Recycling & Cemeteries

Important Definitions and Exemptions in Bylaw No. 7283

Checkout Bag

Means:

- (a) any bag intended to be used by a customer for the purpose of transporting items purchased or received by the customer from the Business providing the bag; or
- (b) bags used to package take-out or delivery of food; and
- (c) includes Paper Bags, Plastic Bags, or Reusable Bags

Please see the enclosed Guide for Businesses for more information on how checkout bags are regulated by the Bylaw.

Exemptions

The Checkout Bag Regulation does not apply to Small Paper Bags or Bags used to:

- (a) package loose bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy;
- (b) package loose small hardware items such as nails and bolts;
- (c) contain or wrap frozen foods, meat, poultry, or fish, whether pre-packaged or not;
- (d) wrap flowers or potted plants;
- (e) protect prepared foods or bakery goods that are not pre-packaged;
- (f) contain prescription drugs received from a pharmacy;
- (g) transport live fish;
- (h) protect linens, bedding, or other similar large items that cannot easily fit in a Reusable Bag;
- (i) protect newspapers or other printed material intended to be left at the customer's residence or place of Business; or
- (j) protect clothes after professional laundering or dry cleaning.

Business means:

Means any person, organization, or group engaged in a trade, business, profession, occupation, calling, employment or purpose that is regulated under the Business Licence Bylaw and, for the purposes of section 3, includes a person employed by, or operating on behalf of, a Business.

The Checkout Bag Regulation does not limit or restrict the sale of bags, including Plastic Bags, intended for use at the customer's home or Business, provided that they are sold in packages of multiple bags.

Businesses may provide Checkout Bags free of charge if they have already been used and have been returned to the Business for the purpose of being reused by other customers.

The Checkout Bag Regulation does not apply to a Checkout Bag that was purchased by a Business prior to adoption of this Bylaw.*

**The adoption date was February 22, 2021. This means all checkout bag stocks (including plastic bags, paper bags, and reusable bags) purchased by your business before February 22, 2021 can continue to be provided to customers after the Bylaw comes into force, until these stocks are depleted.*