



Notification Number: 2013/589/UK

Carrier Bags Bill. This Bill was introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 3 June 2013.

Date received : 25/10/2013

End of Standstill : 26/10/2013

Fiscal Measures : Yes

Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2013) 02763

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan - Нотификация : 2013/0589/UK - Notificare.

No abre el plazo - Nezahtuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 201302763.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2013 0589 UK EN 25-10-2013 UK NOTIF

2. Member State

UK

3. Department Responsible

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Innovation & Enterprise Group
1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET.

Email: 9834@bis.gsi.gov.uk.

3. Originating Department

Department of the Environment (in Northern Ireland).



4. Notification Number

2013/0589/UK - B30

5. Title

Carrier Bags Bill.

This Bill was introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 3 June 2013.

6. Products Concerned

From 8 April 2013 the Department of the Environment has charged 5 pence for each new single use carrier bag supplied in Northern Ireland (with some exceptions as defined in the legislation).

The Carrier Bags Bill will allow the charging arrangements to be applied to a wider variety of carrier bags - and to enable these bags to be defined by their price.

In practice the Department will use these powers to make regulations which will apply a 5 pence levy on all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence.

7. Notification Under Another Act

- Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste

8. Main Content

The Bill amends the Climate Change Act 2008 (2008 c.27). Under that Act the Department has the powers to levy charges on single use carrier bags. From 8 April 2013 the Department has charged 5 pence for each new single use carrier bag. This Bill provides for the second phase of charging arrangements. It will amend the 2008 Act to allow the charging arrangements to be applied to a wider variety of carrier bags - and to enable these bags to be defined by their price. In practice the Department will use these powers to make regulations which will apply a 5 pence levy on all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence.

The Bill also makes other amendments to the 2008 Act which:

- extend the Department's ability to make specific provision for certain sellers;
- provide for changes to record keeping (including a requirement to pay interest to the Department in the event of late payment of the proceeds of the minimum charge);
- strengthen the Department's enforcement powers; and
- require the Department to carry out a review of the carrier bag charging arrangements.

A copy of the Bill and an Explanatory and Financial Memorandum - which briefly describes each provision in the Bill - are attached.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The extension of the charging arrangements is because a range of low cost reusable bags is readily available. Faced with a choice between a single use carrier bag at 5 pence or a reusable bag at a similar price it is considered likely that consumers would opt for the reusable bag even if it costs marginally more. This "substitution effect" could, in turn, mean that many consumers will use and discard these bags prematurely.



This would have significant adverse environmental impacts as such bags are typically made of heavier gauge materials.

The extension of charging arrangements will be non-discriminatory and will have no implications for the Single Market. It is a similar approach to the plastic bag tax in Ireland where relatively more expensive plastic bags (currently 70 cents or more) are exempted from the charge.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

References of the Basic Texts: A copy of the Carrier Bags Bill is attached along with a copy of the accompanying Explanatory and Financial Memorandum.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

Yes

15. Impact assessment

Yes

16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT aspect

No - The draft has no significant impact on international trade

SPS aspect

No - The draft has no significant impact on international trade

European Commission

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