



Notification Number: 2013/594/UK

## The draft Carrier Bags Levy Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Date received : 30/10/2013

End of Standstill : Closed

Fiscal Measures : Yes

### Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2013) 02776

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 : 2013/0594/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: 201302776.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2013 0594 UK EN 30-10-2013 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**

2013/0594/UK - B30

#### **5. Title**

The draft Carrier Bags Levy Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

#### **6. Products Concerned**

The Department of the Environment has charged 5 pence for each new single use carrier bag supplied in Northern Ireland since 8 April 2013.

The Department has now decided to extend carrier bag charging beyond single use bags. On that basis it introduced the Carrier Bags Bill to the Assembly on 3 June 2013. The 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.

The draft Carrier Bags Levy Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 are to be made using the new powers in the Carrier Bags Bill.

#### **7. Notification Under Another Act**

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

#### **8. Main Content**

Under the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 (S.R. 2013 No. 4) the Department has charged 5 pence for each new single use carrier bag since 8 April 2013. These Regulations were made under the Climate Change Act 2008 (2008 c.27).

The Department has now decided to extend carrier bag charging beyond single use bags. On that basis it introduced the Carrier Bags Bill to the Assembly on 3 June 2013. The Bill amends the Climate Change Act 2008 further 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.

The draft Carrier Bags Levy Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 are to be made using the new powers in the Carrier Bags Bill.

These draft Regulations are identical in most respects to the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013. The main change is that they will apply a 5 pence levy on all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence. The draft Regulations specify that plastic reusable bags of a particular specification will be subject to the levy at first purchase but can be replaced free of charge thereafter.

The draft Regulations also include various other amendments to the 2013 Regulations including a new requirement to pay interest to the Department in the event of late payment of the proceeds of the levy and strengthened Departmental enforcement powers.

A copy of the draft Regulations is attached. The Explanatory Note briefly describes each Part of the draft Regulations.



## 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

No Basic Text exists

## 11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

## 12. Grounds for the Emergency

-

## 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

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European Commission

Contact point Directive 98/34



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
GROWTH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

**Single Market for goods**  
Prevention of Technical Barriers

Fax: +32 229 98043  
email: [dir83-189-central@ec.europa.eu](mailto:dir83-189-central@ec.europa.eu)