



United States – Carryout & Plastic Bag Regulations (State Requirements)

In recent years, many states have passed laws to regulate the manufacturing and sale of plastic bags. Within the United States there are no federal laws regarding single-use plastic products. To help navigate through the various regulations Bureau Veritas has compiled a list of all the related law bags.

Background

Single-use plastic bags contribute to global and local plastic pollution. These plastic products have a severe environmental impact, including pollution of our waters, harm to marine and wildlife, greenhouse gas emissions, blocking storm drains and creating litter. Single-use plastic bags that enter the marine environment breaks down when exposed to sunlight releasing smaller particles called microplastics. As a result, microplastics can be consumed by marine life endangering the aquatic ecosystem and fishing industry.

State Regulations

The compiled list below contains state regulations on carryout retail bags made of plastic and other materials (paper, reusable bags, etc.). This list only includes finalized statewide legislation.

State	Regulation	Summary
California	SB 270 / Prop 67	<p>Single-Use Carryout Bag Ban. Effective Date: 11/8/2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result, SB 270 is in effect and most grocery stores, retail stores with a pharmacy, convenience stores, food marts, and liquor stores will no longer be able to provide single-use plastic carryout bags to their customers. Instead, these stores may provide a reusable grocery bag or recycled paper bag to a customer at the point of sale at a charge of at least 10 cents. Public Resources Code Sections 42281, 42281.5 and 42282 outline the certification requirements for reusable grocery bags. Bag manufacturers and distributors who sell these types of reusable grocery bags in specified California stores must submit their proof of certification to CalRecycle via the Reusable Grocery Bag Reporting System (RGBRS).
Connecticut	HB 7424 / Public Act 19-117	<p>Provisions Related to Revenue and the State Budget. Effective Date: 7/1/2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On and after July 1, 2021, no owner or operator of a store shall provide or sell a single-use checkout bag to a customer.
Delaware	HB 130 / HB 212	<p>Recycling and Waste Reduction. Effective Date: 7/1/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Act provides a phased in approach to further the reduction of single-use plastic bags. This Act increases the minimum thickness for a plastic bag to qualify as a reusable bag from 2.25 mils to 10 mils effective January 1, 2022 and makes the restrictions applicable to stores regardless of size effective July 1, 2022. This Act also makes corrections to existing law to make it conform to the standards of the Legislative Drafting Manual.

State	Regulation	Summary
District of Columbia	D.C. Law 18-55	<p>Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act of 2009. Effective Date: 1/1/2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposable carryout bags made of plastic that cannot be recycled shall not be sold or distributed, retail or wholesale, in the District. • Disposable carryout bags made of paper shall: 100% Recyclable, Contain 40% PCR Content, & Display the phrase “Please Recycle This Bag”, or a substantially similar phrase, in a highly visible manner on the bag exterior. • Disposable carryout bags made of plastic shall: 100% Recyclable, Made of HDPE or LDPE, & Display the phrase “Please Recycle This Bag”, or a substantially similar phrase, in a highly visible manner on the bag exterior.
Florida	S0694	<p>Waste Management. Effective Date: 7/1/2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to review and update its report on retail bags and submit the updated report to the Legislature by a specified date
Maine	LD 1634	<p>Minor Changes and Corrections to Statutes Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. Effective Date: 1/15/2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning January 15, 2021 a retail establishment may use provide a recycled paper bag or a reusable bag made of plastic to bag products at the point of sale as long as the retail establishment charges a fee of at least 5¢ per bag
Massachusetts	H 992 / H 4826	<p>Legislation replaced by H4826 (Still pending)</p>
New Jersey	AB 2065	<p>Single-use and reusable carryout bags. Effective Date: 3/25/2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No store or food service business shall provide or sell a single-use plastic carryout bag to a customer; and • no grocery store shall provide or sell a single-use paper carryout bag to a customer • No food bank or food pantry shall provide a single-use plastic carryout bag to a customer
Oregon	HB 2395	<p>Nonwood renewable fiber in recycled paper checkout bags. Effective Date: 5/17/2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifies definition of "recycled paper checkout bag" to include bags that contain nonwood renewable fiber for purposes of single-use checkout bag prohibition. Declares emergency, effective on passage.
Oregon	HB 2509	<p>Prohibits Single-Use Plastic Bags. Effective Date: 1/1/2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail establishments may not provide single-use checkout bags to customers (see exceptions) • Recycled Paper Bag: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100% recyclable & contains 40% recycled fibers • Reusable Checkout Bag: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse ○ Made of cloth or other machine-washable fabrics; or ○ Made of durable plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick
Rhode Island	HB 7065 / HB 2446	<p>Plastic Waste Reduction Act. Effective Date: 1/1/2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail establishments are prohibited from making available and bag that is not a reusable bag or recyclable paper bag. • Retail establishments and delivery services for retail goods are prohibitive from delivering goods to customers in single-use plastic checkout bags. • Recyclable Paper Bag: A paper bag that is 100% recyclable including the handles, contains at least 40% postconsumer paper content, and displays the words “recyclable” and the percentage of post-consumer paper content is visible on the outside of the bag. • Reusable Bag: A bag with handles which are stitched and is specifically designed and manufactured for 125 or more uses, and is made primarily of washable cloth, other durable woven or nonwoven fabric, polyester, polypropylene, or other durable plastic with a minimum thickness of 4.0 mils.

State	Regulation	Summary
Virginia	Code of Virginia 58.1-1745	Disposable plastic bag tax. Effective Date: 1/1/2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any county or city may impose a \$0.05 tax for each disposable plastic bag provided, whether or not provided free of charge, to a consumer of tangible personal property by retailers in grocery stores, convenience stores, or drugstores. All revenue captured from the tax imposed shall be appropriated to environmental cleanup, providing education programs designed to reduce environmental waste, mitigating pollution and litter, or providing reusable bags to recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) benefits.
Washington	HB 1145	Allowing the use of nonwood renewable fiber in recycled content paper carryout bags. Effective Date: 7/25/2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits retailers from providing single-use plastic carryout bags Paper carryout bag requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 40 % nonwood renewable fiber and/or PCR material (combination of both must total at least 40 %) Capable of Composting & Meet ASTM 6868 Display percentage of recycled content and/or wheat straw fiber content Reusable carryout bag requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum lifetime of 125 uses (carry 20lbs 125 times over 175 feet) Be machine washable or made from a durable material that may be cleaned or disinfected If made of film plastic additional requirements will apply.

How Does this Impact You? Contact Us to Discuss

If you have any comments and/or questions, please contact your customer service representative or email: cps.info@us.bureauveritas.com

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