

September 8, 2021

Mrs Millie Ng, JP & Mr. Owin Fung, JP
Environmental Protection Department
16/F, East Wing, Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar
Hong Kong



**The American Chamber
of Commerce in Hong Kong**
Rm 602, Two Chinachem Central
26 Des Voeux Road Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs. Ng & Mr. Fung,

Scheme on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware

The American Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest international business chambers in Hong Kong, and on behalf of our members, is pleased to be able to respond to this important public consultation exercise.

Back in 2014, the Chamber strongly supported government's longer term plans to both reduce waste and for the extension of landfills and to develop Hong Kong's first waste incinerator. Whilst these latter two developments can help buy time for other measures to work, we do feel it is now time to ramp up efforts to increase the reduction of plastic waste into our landfills and to strengthen the circular economy in general.

We want to make our response to Question 2b crystal clear as the wording in English is ambiguous. We support the Regulation Scheme to cover substitutes made of plastic for the tableware defined as the subject of the intended regulation. We do not think "plastic substitutes" in a more general sense should be governed by this regulation, where the substitutes are made of non-plastic substances such as paper, bamboo, etc, for which other arrangements may be necessary.

We are therefore supportive of the proposed Scheme provided that businesses are given adequate time to prepare for the proposed changes and have pleasure in enclosing the Response Form, duly completed. We trust that the government will continue to bring forward additional measures to facilitate both recycling and a reduction in the overall level of municipal solid waste.

Yours sincerely,

Tara Joseph
President

Encl.

Appendix 4

Response Form “Scheme on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware”

Email: rdpt@epd.gov.hk

Post: Waste Reduction and Recycling Group, Environmental Protection Department
2/F, East Wing, Island West Transfer Station, 88 Victoria Road, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong

Fax: 2872 0389

Part I: Basic Information

Which of the following identities are you using to respond to this response form? (Please select one option)

<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Bodies / Academic Institutions	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> Green Groups
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry Associations	<input type="checkbox"/> Companies	<input type="checkbox"/> Others
Name of Organisations / Companies: <u>The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals		

Email Address: amcham@amcham.org.hk

Part II: Consultation Questions

Question 1: Do you support in principle the introduction of legislation to regulate disposable plastic tableware?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Oppose	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Oppose
If oppose, the reason is:				

Question 2a: Do you agree that the Regulation Scheme should cover all types of disposable plastic tableware listed in Section 3.1?

(i) EPS Tableware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(ii) Straws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(iii) Stirrers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(iv) Cutlery (such as fork, knife and spoon)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(v) Plates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(vi) Cups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(vii) Cup Lids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(viii) Food Containers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(ix) Food Container Covers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:

Others (please specify):

Question 2b: Do you agree that the Regulation Scheme should cover “plastic substitutes” (e.g. oxo-degradable plastics, biodegradable plastics, etc.) that claim to be degradable or biodegradable?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree
If disagree, the reason is :				

Question 3: Do you agree that the sale of disposable EPS tableware to local end-consumers (including catering premises) should be banned?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree
If disagree, the reason is :				

Question 4: Do you agree that the Regulation Scheme should cover all catering premises? (Note: Catering premises refer to any premises where a catering business is carried out by selling or supplying food or beverages to customers for immediate consumption within or outside the premises.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree
If disagree, the reason is :				

Question 5: Do you agree that provision of disposable plastic tableware by catering premises to customers for dine-in services should be completely banned in the first place?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree
If disagree, the reason is :				

Question 6: Given that catering services provided for private events and dine-in services are similar in nature, do you agree that catering services provided for private events (including the provision of food & beverages and catering staff) should be included in the scope of dine-in services?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Disagree
If disagree, the reason is :				

Question 7: Do you agree that the ban on the provision of the following disposable plastic tableware by catering premises to customers for takeaway services should be imposed in phases?

Phase One

(i) EPS Tableware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(ii) Straws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(iii) Stirrers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(iv) Cutlery (such as fork, knife and spoon)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(v) Plates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
Others (Please specify):			

Phase Two

(i) Cups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(ii) Cup Lids	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(iii) Food Containers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
(iv) Food Container Covers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
Others (Please specify):			

Question 8: What are your views on the timetable for implementing the Regulation Scheme in a progressive manner as proposed in the Regulation Scheme?

(i) Phase One

EPS tableware: a complete ban on the sale and provision of EPS tableware to customers for dine-in and takeaway services;

Dine-in: a complete ban on the provision of all types of disposable plastic tableware;

Takeaway: a ban on the provision of certain types of disposable plastic tableware

Subject to the views received and the ensuing legislative procedures, the first phase of the Regulation Scheme can be implemented in around 2025.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
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(ii) Phase Two

EPS tableware: a complete ban on the sale and provision of EPS tableware to customers for dine-in and takeaway services;

Dine-in and takeaway: a complete ban on the provision of all types of disposable plastic tableware

Subject to the outcome of the first phase as well as the maturity of the market for alternatives in future, the launch date of the second phase will be reviewed and determined about 12 to 18 months upon the implementation of the first phase. It is also initially proposed to provide the second phase with a similar preparatory period.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
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Or

(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree that the Regulation Scheme is to be implemented in phases. All the measures should be implemented at the same time.
Others (Please specify):

Question 9: Do you agree to the exclusions proposed in Sections 3.22 to 3.25?

(i) Disposable plastic straws provided by catering premises on request by persons with special needs due to their health needs or physical conditions

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
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(ii) Disposable plastic tableware that forms part of pre-packaged food products prepared outside catering premises

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree, the reason is:
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Others (Please specify):

Question 10: Do you have any other opinions on the “Scheme on Regulation of Disposable Plastic Tableware” and other relevant issues?

◀◀◀ Thank you for your views ▶▶▶

After completion, please send the response form to the Environmental Protection Department by email, post or fax on or before 8 September 2021.