



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Environnement, du Climat  
et du Développement durable

Administration de l'environnement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ORGANIZERS OF PUBLIC EVENTS

Parties and events open to the public must be organised in such a way as to generate as little waste as possible. Annex VI of the [modified law of the 21<sup>st</sup> march 2012 regarding waste](#) of the contains a list of single-use products that are banned and, where applicable, indicates the date from which this ban applies.

### *What is a public event?*

Public events are events that are open to the public, such as village fairs, festivals, cavalcades, markets, sporting and cultural events.

An event is public if it is open to the public (to everyone), even if admission is subject to a charge.

### *What is covered by the ban?*

Single-use **plastic** products banned from 1 January 2023:

- Trays and other food containers
- Plates
- Cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks)
- Stirrers
- Straws
- Mini picks
- Drinking containers: cups, mugs, glasses
- Bottles

Single-use paper/cardboard products with a plastic coating on the inside are considered to contain plastic under the law and are therefore also subject to the ban: cups, food containers or plates with a plastic coating, etc.

Polymer-based rubber articles and biodegradable plastics will also be banned from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

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Single-use products made of **all materials** banned from 1 January 2025:

- Plates
- Stirrers
- Straws
- Mini picks
- Drinking containers: cups, mugs, glasses
- Bottles (except glass bottles).

- Beverage cans
- Drinks cartons

Disposable trays, other food containers and non-plastic cutlery can still be used after 2025.

Please note:

For some products, disposable alternatives (e.g. paper cups) are still possible until 2025. However, these alternatives should be considered as a temporary solution. Organizers of public events are strongly advised to start looking for reusable solutions now.

*Which single-use products can still be used until 2025?*

Single-use products made out of the following materials can still be used until 2025, if they are not coated with plastic:

- Paper/cardboard;
- Wood/bamboo;
- Palm or other plant leaves;
- Sugar cane, bagasse;
- Cellulose from agricultural residues (e.g. rice straw, sugar cane leaves, banana leaves);
- Straw or reed.

When purchasing such a product, it is important to ensure that it is suitable for food use, that it is appropriate for its intended use (suitable for the product in question) and that it is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The applicable standards are set out in [European Regulation 1935/2004](#).

*Where to find more advice to help me implement these new rules?*

The Environment Agency has published two guides:

- "Parties, meetings, culture and sport: enjoying events with less waste", available in French and German on [www.nullofall.lu](http://www.nullofall.lu)
- Alternatives to single-use products on [www.emwelt.lu](http://www.emwelt.lu) : <https://environnement.public.lu/fr/offall-ressourcen/guide-alternatives.html>

The circular no. 4210 has been sent to communal authorities and associations of communes with details on stock management and the possibility of financial support for the communal sector for the purchase of a dishwashing trailer (Spullweenchen) or a stationary industrial dishwasher (Spullstrooss).

Further questions can be sent to [offall@aev.etat.lu](mailto:offall@aev.etat.lu).

*Does the regulation also apply to sporting events?*

Sporting events fall within the scope of this provision. Regarding participants (athletes, etc.), a working group has been set up with the sports federations in order to work on solutions that are compatible with the sporting activity (time constraints during the competition).

However, this should not prevent organizers from using sustainable alternatives for their entire event, especially in the part of the event that is open to the public.

*What happens if an association rents out premises (e.g. a restaurant)? Do they have to follow the same rules?*

Yes, the same rules apply (unless the event is not open to the public).

*Are first aid posts (Red Cross, etc.) also affected?*

No, first aid posts or emergency services are not affected.

*Is "takeaway consumption" also concerned?*

No, if the food that is served is to be taken home (or outside the event), it can be packed or wrapped in a single-use packaging.

The sale of products (honey, jam, wine etc.) through a market stall is not affected by the new regulations.

*Which products are still allowed?*

The aim is for parties and events open to the public to be organized in such a way as to produce as little waste as possible. However, the following items are still tolerated for the provision of meals:

- Pre-packed products<sup>1</sup> (packaged out of sight of the customer and with the quantity indicated and which cannot be modified), e.g. ice cream, yoghurt, salads.
- Sachets and flexible packaging (e.g. sandwich wrappers or sachets containing a condiment/sauce).

*What about food trucks?*

Food trucks at public events and parties must comply with the same obligations as the entire event.

*Is it possible to install a vending machine (with pre-packed food or drinks) in the area of the event?*

Vending machines that have already been installed in the venues where the event is taking place should not be moved, but their use during the event should be avoided.

*What about behind the counter service?*

If alternatives to single-use plastic containers are available, those should be used. Regardless of the equipment used, large containers or reusable solutions must be used when serving drinks.

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<sup>1</sup> A product is considered to be prepacked when it is placed, in the absence of the customer, in a packaging of any kind and in such a way that the quantity of product contained in the packaging has a predetermined value and cannot be altered without the packaging being changed or opened or visibly altered.

*Does the regulation also apply to "MICE" (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions)?*

Article 12(3) only applies to parties and events that are open to the public. Unlike a public event, a private event is open only to invited guests, such as a birthday party or a wedding. An event organised in a professional context (e.g. by invitation) is therefore generally not subject to Article 12(3).

*What other restrictions may apply at public events?*

Since 31 December 2018, no plastic bags have been provided free of charge at points of sales. Very lightweight plastic bags<sup>2</sup> are exempt. (Article 5(1), point 2° of the amended law of 21 March 2017 on packaging and packaging waste).

From 1 January 2025, beverage cups, including their closures and lids, food containers with or without closures and bags, regardless of size, method of consumption or material, may not be provided free of charge at points of sales. (Article 5(1), point 3° of the amended law of 21 March 2017 on packaging and packaging waste).

*Read more: Green events*

The staff at [Oekozynter Pafendall](#) and [SuperDrecksKëscht](#), who manage the "Green Events" initiative funded by the Ministry for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, can guide you in setting up an eco-responsible event. The certification of an event according to the Green Events criteria remains a voluntary process and includes financial support.

A Green Events guide for local authorities has been developed to facilitate the creation of the right framework conditions to encourage the organization of eco-responsible events within the municipality: [www.greenevents.lu](http://www.greenevents.lu)

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<sup>2</sup> Plastic bags with a thickness of less than 15 microns that are required for hygiene purposes or provided as primary packaging for bulk food where this contributes to the prevention of food waste.