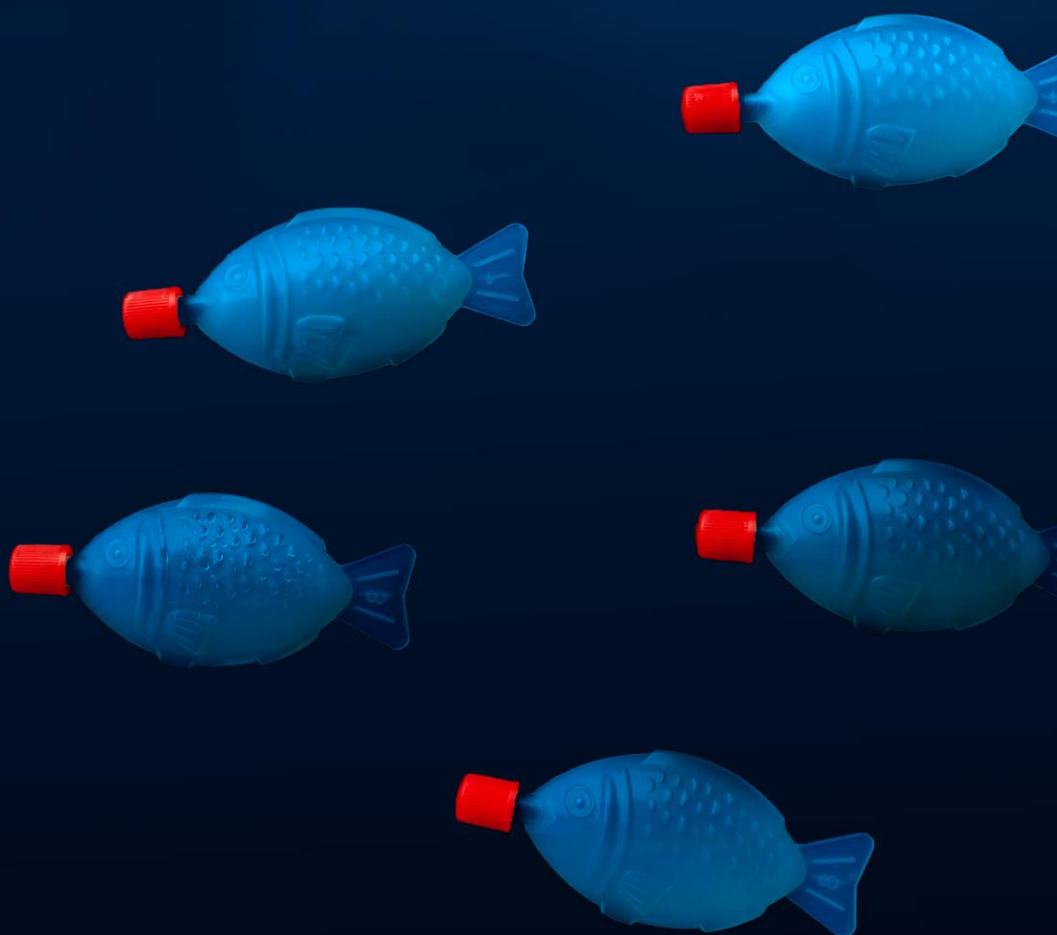


Guide to the 2025 ban on single-use plastics



December 2023



Government
of South Australia
Green Industries SA

The following guide provides information about the proposed ban on plastic produce stickers, plastic soy sauce fish containers, attached straws and cutlery, and expanded polystyrene (EPS) cup and bowl packaging, as drafted in the draft *Single-Use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) (Prohibited Plastic Products) Amendment Regulations 2024*.

At a glance

These bans will commence on **1 September 2025**:

- Ban on non-Australian Standard (AS) certified compostable plastic labels affixed to fruit or vegetables for sale in South Australia
- Ban on plastic soy sauce fish containers
- Removal of exclusion for attached straws and cutlery, expanded polystyrene (EPS) cup and bowl packaging

What you need to know

What are AS certified compostable products?

Certified compostable products are made of materials that do not leave behind any toxic material, breaking down readily in a commercial, or sometimes home, composting system. This can include items that look similar to plastic, including stickers. Australia has two of the highest standards in the world when it comes to certification:



AS 4736:2006
Biodegradable plastics
suitable for
industrial/compostable
composting and other
microbial treatment

This certifies the material can be composted through a commercial composting facility. In the majority of South Australian council areas, workplace and school organics collections, and at public events, this means the material can go into the green-lidded organics bin.



AS 5810:2010
Biodegradable plastics
suitable for home or
commercial/industrial
composting

This certifies that the material can be composted in your home compost bin. It is also suitable to go into a green-lidded organics bin.

What is the difference between Australia's industrial composting standard [AS 4736:2006] and Australia's home composting standard [AS 5810:2010]?

Commercial composting facilities generate much more heat than a home compost bin, and use oxygen and water to break down materials into compost. Both AS 4736:2006 and AS 5810:2010 certified compostable products can be processed at commercial composting facilities in South Australia.

As home composting facilities do not reach the same high temperatures that are reached at commercial composting facilities, only AS 5810:2010 certified compostable products are suited to home compost systems.

Why are other compostability standards and certifications not being accepted?

While there are other compostability certifications, including from the USA and Europe, these standards are not the same as AS 4736:2006 and AS 5810:2010, which include an additional requirement of a worm toxicity test. This additional testing component is to ensure that AS certified compostable items in the compost has no toxic effect on plants and earthworms.

Plastic produce stickers

South Australia will be the first Australian jurisdiction to ban plastic produce stickers that are not AS certified compostable. The ban will apply to plastic labels affixed to fruit or vegetables for sale in South Australia, but will not apply to fruit produced in South Australia and sold into other markets outside the state.

More than 80% of South Australians have access to a green-lidded organics bin service, where household food waste should be placed. In addition, many South Australians are keen home composters. While plastic produce stickers should be removed, this does not always happen. The ban will ensure that plastic produce stickers do not turn up as a contaminant in either commercial or home compost outputs.

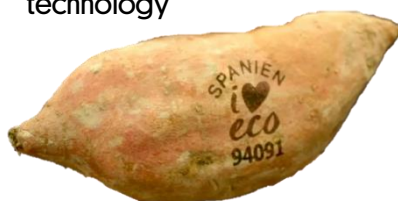
What will be banned?

- Plastic produce stickers that are not AS certified compostable (such as conventional plastic stickers on produce such as apples, pears, avocados, bananas, citrus fruits, and pineapples)



What won't be banned?

- AS certified compostable plastic produce stickers
- Paper produce stickers
- Labelling produce using laser or similar technology



Consultation questions

For businesses

- Do you require suppliers to use plastic produce stickers? If so, why?
- Are you required to sell produce with plastic produce stickers attached? If so, why?
- Are there appropriate alternatives available?

- Do you have comments or concerns about the ban on plastic produce stickers?

For individuals

- Do you have any comments or concerns about the ban on plastic produce stickers?

Plastic soy sauce fish containers

Small/single serve soy sauce containers are most commonly found in the shape of fish, but can also be pigs, small rectangular receptacles, and even miniature plastic bottles. It is intended that the ban will cover all shapes of single-use rigid plastic containers, with lids, under 30 mL that are used for soy sauce and provided with takeaway foods [such as sushi].

What will be banned?

- Plastic soy sauce fish and other shaped containers with a lid
- Plastic soy sauce containers with a lid, containing less than 30mL of soy sauce



What won't be banned?

- Sachets of soy sauce and all other condiments of any size
- Squeezy packs of soy sauce and all other condiments of any size
- Pre-packaged off-premise containers of all other condiments

Small cup-shaped plastic sauce containers [with or without lids] that are filled on-premise [that is, not pre-packaged offsite] will already have been banned from 1 September 2024 [see the [guideline on food and beverage containers](#)].



Consultation questions

For businesses

- Do you sell plastic soy sauce fish containers?
- Have you identified alternative ways to provide soy sauce to your customers? If so, what are your solutions?
- Do you have any comments or concerns about the ban on plastic soy sauce fish containers?

For individuals

- Do you use plastic soy sauce fish?
- Do you already use alternatives to plastic soy sauce fish? If so, what type of alternative?
- Do you have any comments or concerns about the ban on plastic soy sauce fish containers?

Single-use plastic drinking straws and single-use plastic cutlery attached to a food or beverage product

There is an exclusion for single-use plastic drinking straws and single-use plastic cutlery attached to a food or beverage product to enable or assist with consumption of the food or beverage. This will be removed from 1 September 2025.

Removal of this exemption is in line with similar bans being put into place by New South Wales (from 1 January 2025) and by Victoria (from 1 January 2026).

What will be banned?

- Plastic spoons or plastic forks attached to a food container
- Plastic drinking straws attached to a drink container, for example juice drink containers



What won't be banned?

- Plastic lollipop sticks
- Plastic ice cream sticks



Consultation questions

For businesses

- Do you sell products with attached plastic single-use cutlery and/or straws?
- Do you have any concerns about the ban on attached plastic single-use cutlery and straws?

For individuals

- Do you have any comments or concerns about the ban on attached plastic single-use cutlery and straws?

EPS cups and EPS bowls that form part of food or beverage packaging

From 1 September 2025, the exclusion in place for pre-packaged EPS cups and EPS bowls will be removed. This includes EPS that forms an integral part of the packaging of pre-packaged single serve food or beverage products that are either ready for immediate consumption or consumption after cooling or heating of the contents.

This is in line with similar bans being put into place by New South Wales (from 1 January 2025) and by Victoria (from 1 January 2026).

What will be banned?

- Pre-packaged EPS cups or bowls containing noodles with flavouring
- Pre-packaged EPS cups or bowls containing a meal



What won't be banned?

- Plastic packaging that is heat resistant and is not comprised of EPS used for pre-packaged instant noodles, instant pasta, and so on



Consultation questions

For businesses

- Do you sell products that have integrated EPS packaging?
- Do you have any comments or concerns about the ban on integrated EPS packaging?

For individuals

- Do you consume products that have integrated EPS packaging?
- Do you have any comments or concerns about the ban on integrated EPS packaging?