

## BIODEGRADABLE BAG STANDARDS FOR IMPORT PERMIT

1. Bag must fit the standards set in EN 13432: 2000 (Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation – Test scheme and evaluation criteria for the final acceptance of packaging)
2. The heavy metal content of the bag must not exceed the standards set in EN 13432: 2000 (Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation – Test scheme and evaluation criteria for the final acceptance of packaging)
3. At least 90% of the bag's materials must decompose on its own within a maximum of 180 days.
4. At least 90% of the bag's materials must be organic materials.
5. At any point throughout the decomposition of the bag, no harmful or dangerous elements must be released to the surrounding area.
6. The non-biodegradable fraction of the bag's materials must not exceed 5%.
7. If the bag imported to Maldives is specifically made to store food items, then the bag's materials must not lead to or cause any negative changes in the stored food.
8. During the production of the bag, if any additives that are polymers, organic additives, inorganic fillers, stabilizers and pro-oxidants contain an element that is harmful to the Maldivian environment or is considered harmful by the Maldivian government or any Conventions that Maldives is a part of, then the element must be lower than 0.1% of the bag's materials.
9. The following things must be added on the outer side of the bag:
  - a. Must include either the name or logo of the party that produced the bag or imported the bag to Maldives
  - b. The certificate number given by the Environmental Protection Agency
  - c. The conditions for the bag's degradation
  - d. The duration taken for the bag's degradation – The service life and the storage life of the bag must also be included along with the bag's production date (Months)
  - e. The names of any biodegradable additives used in the bag

