DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE RECOVERY DIVISION

- UPON REQUEST - Food Service Ware: CB-014-2022
- BAG IT RIGHT - Better Bag: CB-032-2023
What is CB-014-2022? Prince George's County CB-014-2022 regulates the distribution of single-use foodware accessories and standard condiments by food service businesses to customers.

What is the purpose of CB-014-2022?
- To reduce unnecessary waste generated from single-use disposable items in the retail food industry;
- Improve the health and safety of community members; and
- Help keep our waterways clean and safe.
Accessory Disposable Food Service Ware means straws*, utensils, condiment cups and packets, cup sleeves**, splash sticks, stirrers, and napkins, designed to be used once and then discarded.

Customers will have to verbally request that they want single-use items, or select items from self-service bins instead of having them automatically included with a food order.

*compostable and paper straws are allowed under County law.
**cup sleeves are permitted as deemed necessary by a business for safe handling precautions
Food Service Ware: CB-014-2022

Who will CB-014-2022 affect?
Any food service business operating in Prince George's County and its consumers.

- **Food Service Business** means full-service restaurants, limited-service restaurants, fast food restaurants, cafes, delicatessens, coffee shops, supermarkets, grocery stores, vending trucks or carts, food trucks, cafeterias, including those operated by or on behalf of County departments and agencies, and other entities selling or providing food within the County for consumption on or off the premises who are providing prepared or ready-to-eat food.

- Food service businesses shall provide accessory disposable food service ware *only upon request* by the customer or at a self-serve station. Take-out or delivery orders shall not include accessory disposable food service ware unless specifically requested by the customer in person, on the phone, or online.

- Food service businesses shall provide options for customers to affirmatively request accessory disposable food service ware across all ordering platforms, including digital platforms, telephone, and in-person, whether for on-site dining, takeout, or delivery. This Section shall apply even when a food service business uses a third-party food ordering platform.
Food Service Ware: CB-014-2022

Who will CB-014-2022 affect?
Any food service business operating in Prince George's County and its consumers.

- As CB-014-2022 is written, “third-party food ordering platforms shall provide customers the ability to affirmatively request accessory disposable food service ware, [including] and shall provide a food service business with the ability to [select the] customize its menu with a list of available accessory disposable food service ware, and only those specific items [they need] selected by the customer shall be provided by the food service business.”

- Third-party food ordering platforms must provide this by August 1, 2023.
What if my business fails to comply with CB-014-2022?
Food facilities and third-party food delivery platforms in violation of the law may be subject to a fine:
1st-time violations will receive a warning.
2nd-time violations will result in a $250 fine.
3rd-time violations will result in a $500 fine.

When does enforcement begin?
The County will start enforcement of the regulation beginning October 1, 2023.

To learn more about what the law requires and steps you can take to comply, visit: mypgc.us/singleuse
What is CB-032-2023? Starting January 2024, Prince George's County law prohibits retail establishments from providing plastic carryout bags to customers to help reduce litter.

What is the purpose of CB-032-2023?
• To reduce unnecessary waste generated from single-use plastic items;
• Improve the health and safety of community members; and
• Help keep our waterways clean and safe.
The world’s oceans are taking in a million tons of plastic from land-based sources annually, and plastic bags are among the top five plastic products collected in beach cleanups in the United States.

Don’t Wait. Start shopping with your reusable bags now!
Better Bag: CB-032-2023

**Reusable Carryout Bag** means a bag with stitched handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse and is made of:
- cloth or other washable fabric; or
- a durable material suitable for multiple re-use that is not made of plastic film.

**What if my business fails to comply with CB-032-2023?**

Businesses have 90 days from January 1, 2024, to come into compliance.

Retail establishments in violation of the law may be subject to a civil penalty* not exceeding $500.

*1st-time violations will receive a warning.*

To learn more about what the law requires and steps you can take to comply, visit: mypgc.us/bagitright
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