

Northern Ireland Carrier Bag Levy

Across Northern Ireland the Carrier Bag Levy became operational in April 2013 and under this legislation it is a statutory requirement for **ALL** sellers to charge at least 5p for each new carrier bag they supply to customers (whether the bag is made from paper, plastic or natural materials).

Under the Regulations, bags which are supplied to customers at a price of less than 20p must include the 5p levy and the proceeds must then be paid directly to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Prior to the levy being introduced on 8 April 2013, around 300 million carrier bags were used in Northern Ireland every year and to date the levy has helped reduce environmental damage by cutting the number of bags used in the first three years by approximately 200 million bags per year.

There are some exemptions which are mainly on the grounds of hygiene, food safety, and the protection of goods and consumers with some small bags are also exempt.

What You Need To Do

If at any time you are operating as a seller in Northern Ireland, conducting business and dispensing bags, please contact and inform the Carrier Bag Levy Team. Responsibility for registration and payment lies with each individual seller and you must register online via email at carrierbaglevy@daera-ni.gov.uk or by directly contacting the Team on 028 71299010. Once registered, you will be able to make online returns and pay the proceeds of the levy collected to DAERA / Carrier Bag Levy Team on a quarterly basis

Customer Relations Managers from the team continually visit sellers across Northern Ireland to provide support / information about the levy and to advise sellers on how they can comply with the Regulations. The Carrier Bag Levy team also carries out compliance spot checks and test purchases at trade fairs, exhibitions and shows.

The supporting Regulations give the Department powers to apply a range of civil sanctions ranging from £100 to £20,000 where breaches of non compliance have been uncovered i.e. where charging is not taking place or where the charge is not being passed on to the customer.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



The website link below also provides general information about the levy and includes links to the Regulations, Departmental guidance and short information videos for both retailers and consumers.

Visit the Carrier Bag Levy website: www.nidirect.gov.uk/baglevy

Email the Carrier Bag Levy Team: carrierbaglevy@daera-ni.gov.uk

Call the Carrier Bag Levy Team: 028 7129 9010

Rory O'Boyle

Head of the Carrier Bag Levy Team

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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