



9 September 2019

(19-5739)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1. Notifying Member: <u>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: Ministry of Environment (ME) Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: Resource Recycling Division Building #6, Government Complex-Sejong 11 Doum 6-ro, Sejong Special Self-Governing City 30103, Rep. of Korea Tel: 82-44-201-7381 Fax: 82-44-201-7394 E-mail: theacme@korea.kr Website: http://www.me.go.kr
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Packaging as paper packs, glass bottles, cans, plastics
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Sub Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources 1. Draft partial amendment of the Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources (19 pages, in Korea) 2. Draft partial amendment of the Enforcement Rule of the Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources (31 pages, in Korean)
6. Description of content: 1. The Republic of Korea has amended the Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources as of 24 December 2018, which will come into force on 25 December 2019. The amended Act requires that materials and structures of packaging be graded and evaluated according to their recyclability. Once the grades are determined, they should also be marked on the labels of products, which is to promote the production of easily recyclable packaging. The grades should be labelled on each product, but they have nothing to do with sales ban. 2. The Amendment of sub-Act in August 2019 is for the enforcement procedures defined in the higher Act (Act on the Promotion of Saving and Recycling of Resources).

<p>3. A grace period will be granted after the entry into force of the amended Act in consideration of industry's preparation period. Nine months will be granted for grading and evaluation and up to 15 months for labeling, which adds up to a total of 2 years for the entire grace period.</p> <p>4. In addition, a ban will be imposed on PVC plastics and colored PET bottles, which have extremely negative impact on recycling process. However, if such packaging does not have substitutes available on the market or are closely related to people's diet and medicines, they will be exempt from the ban. Colored PET bottles will be banned only for mineral water and drinks.</p> <p>5. In principle, a year is given to manufacturers to improve their products' recyclability. In case there have been changes in manufacturing process or for similar reasons, a 3-year improvement period is given, and if no improvement is made within this period, either the use of such product is banned or a fine is imposed.</p>
<p>7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Promotion of the production of easily recyclable packaging</p>
<p>8. Relevant documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment Public Notice No.2019-645, 646 (29 August 2019)
<p>9. Proposed date of adoption: December 2019</p> <p>Proposed date of entry into force: 25 December 2019</p>
<p>10. Final date for comments: 60 days from notification</p>
<p>11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:</p> <p>Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Division Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) 93 Isu-ro Maengdong-myeon Eumseong-gun Chungcheongbuk-do 27737 Republic of Korea Tel : (+82) 43 870 5525 Fax: (+82) 43 870 5682 E-mail: tbt@kats.go.kr Website: http://www.knowtbt.kr</p> <p>https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2019/TBT/KOR/19_4903_00_x.pdf</p> <p>https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2019/TBT/KOR/19_4903_01_x.pdf</p>