

PLASTIC BAG CHARGE

THE BASICS

WHAT

TYPE OF BAGS DO I NEED TO CHARGE FOR?

The Single Use Carrier Bag (SUCB) charge for England is applicable to:

- Unused bags
- Made of lightweight plastic material, with handles
- 70 microns / 280 gauge or less*
- For single use only

*Bags over 280 gauge are not chargeable

WHO

IS IT APPLICABLE TO?

- The charge applies to sellers who employ 250 or more employees
- This is inclusive of full-time employees only (working 37.5 hours per week)

ARE

THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

Bags used to contain the following items are exempt from the charge:

- Unwrapped food
- Unwrapped loose seeds
- Unwrapped blades
- Prescription-only medicine
- Uncooked meat
- Live aquatic creatures


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HOW MUCH

DO I HAVE TO CHARGE?

- Sellers must charge a minimum of 5 pence (inc.VAT) for each SUCB
- This applies to the place where the goods are sold
- And also for the goods to be delivered

WHEN

WILL IT TAKE EFFECT?

- The England Plastic Bag Charge comes into force on 5th October 2015
- The charge ceases to exist on 5th October 2022

IS

THERE A PENALTY?

- If you are found to have breached any of these rules, you can be charged with a fixed fine
- If you do not comply with a discretionary requirement you can be fined up to a maximum of 5,000 GBP

CARRIERBAGSHOP 
Passion For Packaging

PHONE: 02030029960

EMAIL: TEAM@CARRIERBAGSHOP.CO.UK