



BEEF WATCH

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PROHIBITION REGULATIONS (SUPPR) ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

On June 22, 2022, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) published the new SUPPR regulations in Canada Gazette II. Single-use plastics are those that will be discarded after being used only once. The SUPPR will be implemented and enforced using a phased approach that starts on December 2022 and will be complete on December 2025.



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



Implications for the Retail Meat Sector

Under the SUPPR regulations, the following single-use plastic materials will be permitted to continue;

- Plastic trays that contain meat that is not ready to be eaten before preparation or is not meant to be consumed directly from the meat tray.¹
- Bags to package meat whether pre-packaged or not.¹

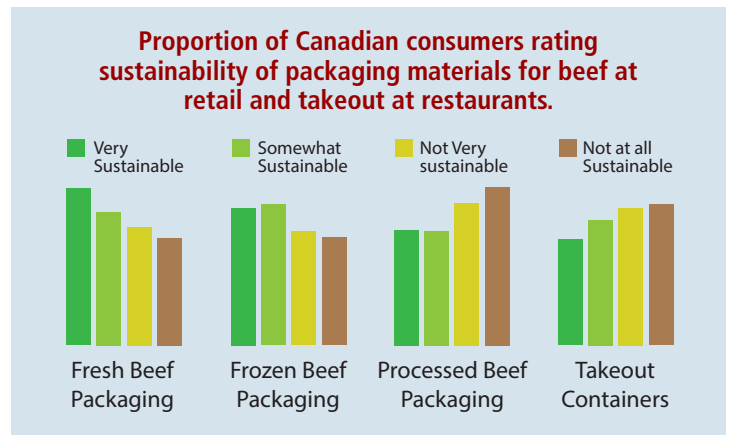
These exemptions would appear to address the most common packaging materials used for beef sold in the meat case and also provide some options for the deli counter.

Some retailers are already searching for innovative materials and packaging solutions to replace some meat trays and plastic from their systems.

A nationwide competition by one major retailer granted a \$25,000 prize to a company that will supply meat trays made with biodegradable materials such as bamboo and sugar cane by-products.

Implications for the Food Service Sector

- The SUPPR regulations are likely to cause greater challenges for restaurants. The concerns include the potential of higher cost and/or a lack of supply of approved packaging substitutes. Restaurants Canada has estimated an increase of 125% in costs related to the new regulations



- The performance of the packaging including its ability to maintain the temperature of takeout meals must also be examined. Potential substitutes come with risks because the foil laminated (aluminum) or cardboard containers may perform differently than current options relative to keeping foods warm. Ideally the insulation effectiveness of new materials should be similar or better than polystyrene containers that will no longer be permitted.
- Canada Beef is in contact with other industry associations such as Restaurants Canada and the Retail Council of Canada (RCC) to understand any issues for the beef sector arising as a result of the SUPPR regulations.

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Additional Resources

- (1) Government of Canada, Technical Guidelines SUPPR, 2022.
- (2) D. Maga, A comparative Life Cycle Assessment of meat trays made of various packaging materials, Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental Safety, and Energy Technology, 2019.
- (3) S.P. Singh, et al., Performance Comparison of Thermal Insulated Packaging boxes, bags and refrigerants for single parcel shipments, Michigan State University, Cal Poly State University, 2008.