

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS

URGENT - NORTHERN IRELAND CARRIER BAG LEVY

BALMORAL SHOW 15 – 18 MAY 2024

In Northern Ireland the Carrier Bag Levy has been in operation since April 2013 and under the legislation, it is a statutory requirement for **ALL** sellers to charge at least 25p for ALL carrier bags supplied to customers, regardless of what material the bags are made from. Under the Regulations, ALL bags which are supplied to customers at a price of £5 or less must include the 25p levy and the proceeds must then be paid directly to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

There are some exemptions which are mainly on the grounds of hygiene, food safety, and the protection of goods and consumers. Further information is available on our website at www.nidirect.gov.uk/baglevy.

What You Need To Do IMMEDIATELY

As an exhibitor at the Balmoral show, if you are SELLING goods and DISPENSING BAGS you are required to charge the levy. 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 02877 442056. 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 were in attendance at the show last year and advice and guidance was given to some retailers where non-compliance was discovered.

The Regulations give the Department clear powers to apply a range of civil sanctions where breaches of non-compliance have been uncovered, i.e., where non-charging is taking place. If non-compliance is discovered this year, consideration will be given to the Department taking formal enforcement action.

Customer Relations Managers will be in attendance every day at the show again this year, monitoring bag usage and will also be available to provide support / information about the levy and to advise sellers on how they can comply with the Regulations. If you wish to speak directly to any of the Customer Relations Managers, this can be arranged by contacting the Carrier Bag Levy Team on 02877442056.

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.



Please note we also strongly discourage **exhibitors at the Balmoral show** from providing free giveaway bags. As a Department, our key messages to protect the Environment are to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and as such we will be encouraging all visitors to the show to bring their own bag(s).

Thank you for your time and co-operation and we hope you enjoy the 2024 Balmoral Show.



Michael McCallion

Head of the Carrier Bag Levy Team

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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