

RCW 70A.455.070 Producers of plastic film bags or food service products—Prohibited, discouraged, and encouraged acts. (1) A producer of plastic film bags sold, offered for sale, or distributed for use in Washington that does not meet the applicable ASTM standard specifications provided in RCW 70A.455.050 is:

(a) Prohibited from using tinting, color schemes, labeling, or terms that are required of products that meet the applicable ASTM standard specifications under RCW 70A.455.050;

(b) Discouraged from using labeling, images, and terms that may reasonably be anticipated to confuse consumers into believing that noncompostable products are compostable; and

(c) Encouraged to use labeling, images, and terms to help consumers identify noncompostable bags as either: (i) Suitable for recycling; or (ii) necessary to dispose as waste.

(2) A producer of food service products, or plastic film products other than plastic film bags subject to subsection (1) of this section, sold, offered for sale, or distributed for use in Washington that does not meet the applicable ASTM standard specifications provided in RCW 70A.455.060 is:

(a) Prohibited from using labeling, or terms that are required of products that meet the applicable ASTM standard specifications under RCW 70A.455.060;

(b) Discouraged from using labeling, images, and terms that may reasonably be anticipated to confuse consumers into believing that noncompostable products are compostable; and

(c) Encouraged to use tinting, coloration, labeling, images, and terms to help consumers identify film products and food service packaging as either: (i) Suitable for recycling; or (ii) necessary to dispose as waste.

(3) For the purposes of this section only:

(a) "Tinting" means the addition of color to a film, usually by means of dye or stain, that filters light and makes the film appear a certain color; and

(b) (i) The prohibition in subsection (1)(a) of this section on "color schemes" on plastic film bags does not preclude the use of:

(A) Green, brown, or beige stripes that are smaller than .25 inch wide and used as visual aids; and

(B) Green, brown, or beige lettering or logos that are used solely for brand identity purposes.

(ii) The prohibition in subsection (1)(a) of this section on color schemes on plastic film bags does prohibit the use of botanical motifs, such as leaves or vines that are colored green, brown, or beige, or any combination of these colors or shapes. [2024 c 341 s 502; 2022 c 180 s 806; 2020 c 20 s 1447; 2019 c 265 s 7. Formerly RCW 70.360.070.]

Findings—Intent—2024 c 341: See note following RCW 70A.207.040.

Findings—Intent—Scope of authority of chapter 180, Laws of 2022—2022 c 180: See notes following RCW 70A.205.007.

Effective date—2020 c 20 ss 1446-1450: See note following RCW 70A.455.060.