



Frequently Asked Questions

Eliminating the Purchase by the Executive Department of Single-Use Plastic Bottles

On September 21, 2023, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey issued Executive Order EO No. 619 (EO619): [Eliminating the Purchase by the Executive Department of Single-Use Plastic Bottles](#). As used in EO619, a “single-use plastic bottle” refers to a beverage in a sealed rigid plastic bottle having a capacity of 21 fluid ounces or less. Beverages include, but are not limited to, water, juice, milk, and soft drinks. Consequently, all Executive Departments shall stop purchasing single-use plastic bottles immediately.

Q. When is EO619 effective?

A. EO 619 is effective Thursday, September 21, 2023.

Q. What contracts are impacted by EO619?

- A. Two Statewide Contracts are impacted:
- » [GRO39](#): Drinking Water – General and Emergency Services
 - » [GRO41](#): Dairy Products and Baked Goods

While single-use plastic bottles having a capacity of 21 fluid ounces or less will continue to be available on the GRO39 and GRO41 Statewide Contracts, Executive Departments are not authorized to purchase these products.

Q. Are Statewide Contract Vendors aware of EO619?

A. Statewide Contract Vendors impacted by [EO No. 619](#) have been notified.

Q. Will alternate products be offered through Statewide Contracts?

- A. We are working with our GRO39 and GRO41 vendors to determine if they are able to provide environmentally preferable packaging alternatives (i.e., paper cartons, aluminum cans, etc.) for beverages with a capacity of 21 fluid ounces or less. The GRO39 and GRO41 Contract User Guides and Vendors’ Price Sheets will be updated to reflect options that comply with the new EO No. 619 as information is shared by Contractors.

Q. Are there any circumstances under which Executive Departments may purchase or use products covered under EO619?

- A. Per EO619, each Executive Department shall take appropriate steps to limit the purchase, use, or sale of single-use plastic bottles to only those circumstances: (i) when no alternative is available or practicable; (ii) when necessary to protect health, safety, and welfare; (iii) when compliance with this Order would conflict with contract requirements or labor agreements in existence as of the effective date of this Order or agreements solicited before the effective date of this Order; and (iv) to prepare for or respond to an emergency.

If an Executive Department believes that one or more of the previously stated circumstances exists, the Department is required to complete the EO619 [Single-Use Plastic Bottle Procurement Justification](#) form and upload it to COMMBUYS as part of the agency's Procurement File.

Q. What should organizations do with unused items that fall under the Executive Order?

- A. While EO619 states that Agencies should try to limit the use of plastic bottles, there are two options: 1) Attempt to return unused items to vendors; and 2) Use the inventory on hand.

Q. The Order states that all executive department offices and agencies shall submit to the Operational Services Division and the Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience a summary of the steps they have taken to (i) halt the expenditures of state funds for the purchase of single-use plastic bottles and (ii) reduce the sale or re-sale of single use plastic bottles on state owned property by December 31. To whom should we send the Summary and is there a form to be completed?

- A. There is no form, and the summary should be sent to OSDCompliance@mass.gov. In addition, per the EO, each office or agency shall provide for disability or accessibility related accommodations in its planning efforts.

Q. As a State Employee, am I allowed to bring non-compliant bottles to the office for my personal use?

- A. Please check with your supervisor/manager to determine the policy for your organization.

Q. Do municipalities need to comply with this Executive Order?

- A. Massachusetts quasi-public authorities and boards, and local government organizations are not bound by EO619, however, they are encouraged to adopt their own plans to eliminate their purchases and sales of single-use plastic bottles.