

**The City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works.
Checkout Bag Reduction Regulations**

The City of Cambridge Commissioner for Public Works (“The Commissioner”) hereby adopts these Checkout Bag Reduction Regulations pursuant to Cambridge Municipal Code Chapter 8:67.

1. Definitions. The following terms shall have the following meaning:

A. Compostable Plastic Bag is a plastic bag that meets the current ASTM D6400 Standard Specifications for compostability, is labeled as meeting the ASTM Standard by a third-party independent verification entity, such as the US Composting Council or the Biodegradable Products Institute. Said bags must be capable of undergoing biological decomposition in a compost site such that the material breaks down into carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds and biomass at a rate consistent with known compostable materials.

If Amendment 8A is passed, the following language would be promulgated by the Commissioner:

2. Checkout Bag Charge

A. Retail Establishments which provide Recyclable Paper Bags, Reusable Bags or Compostable Plastic Bags as checkout bags in accordance with this ordinance and regulations, shall charge not less than 10 cents for each such bag provided. This Checkout bag charge shall be retained by the Retail Establishment

If Amendment 8B is passed, the preceding language will not be promulgated by the Commissioner.

~~2. Checkout Bag Charge~~

~~A. Retail Establishments which provide Recyclable Paper Bags, Reusable Bags or Compostable Plastic Bags as checkout bags in accordance with this ordinance and regulations, shall charge not less than 10 cents for each such bag provided. This Checkout bag charge shall be retained by the Retail Establishment.~~

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0"

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0"

Formatted: Font: Bold

City of Cambridge
Application for Exemption from Checkout Bag Ordinance

Date: _____ Business Name: _____
Address: _____ # of Employees: _____
Other Locations: _____
Contact Name & Title: _____
Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Options to submit completed application:

1. Submit online at www.cambridgema.gov/checkoutbags.
2. Scan and email to theworks@cambridgema.gov.
3. Print and mail or drop off:
Cambridge Department of Public Works, 147 Hampshire Street, Cambridge MA 02139

Undue Hardship Exemptions

Expire after 2 Years. Retail establishment may re-apply when the exemption expires.

1. How do the requirements of the Checkout Bag Ordinance create circumstances or situations unique to this particular Retail Establishment such that reusable bags, recyclable paper bags or compostable bags cannot be reasonably used as checkout bags?

2. Describe how the requirements of the Checkout Bag Ordinance create circumstances or situations unique to this particular Retail Establishment such that compliance would deprive a person of a legally protected right.

Bag Exemption

Expire after 6 months.

1. Explain why this particular retail establishment requires additional time in order to draw down an existing inventory of single-use plastic checkout bags, or checkout bags that are not permitted by the Ordinance or Regulations.

I certify that the information contained in this Application is correct. I understand that, once this Application is submitted, it may take up to **fourteen business days** to be considered by the Department of Public Works. I understand that the Commissioner of Public Works may approve the exemption request, in whole or in part, with or without conditions.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed by: _____ **Date:** _____
Approved ___ **Rejected** ___

Details of approval with conditions:



