



PRESS RELEASE

Following the preliminary gazetting of BOS 186:2006 a standard for Plastic Carrier Bags and Flat Bags Specification, in the Government Gazette Vol. XLV, No. 2 of 8 January 2007 by the Managing Director of BOBS, the Minister of Trade and Industry has now issued a Notice declaring the standard, BOS 186:2006 Plastic Carrier Bags and Flat Bags Specification compulsory for the Botswana market.

This standard phases out the use of plastic carrier bags and flat bags of a thickness of less than 24 microns. In addition, the marking either on individual bags or consignment slip must include the name of the manufacturer, importer or distributor and country of origin. Markings shall be in the English or Setswana language. The standard does not cover bread bags, refuse bags, bin liners, household plastic bags or primary packaging such as barrier bags.

The Notice that appears in Government Gazette Vol. XLV, No.19 of 12 March 2007, gives all concerned a notice period of two months with effect from the date of publication of the Notice to comply fully with the requirements of this standard, which will be effective from the 12th May 2007.

Anyone wishing to import plastic carrier bags from 12th May 2007 or wishing to produce the same for the Botswana market and is unclear of the requirements should contact the Botswana Bureau of Standards for guidance.

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