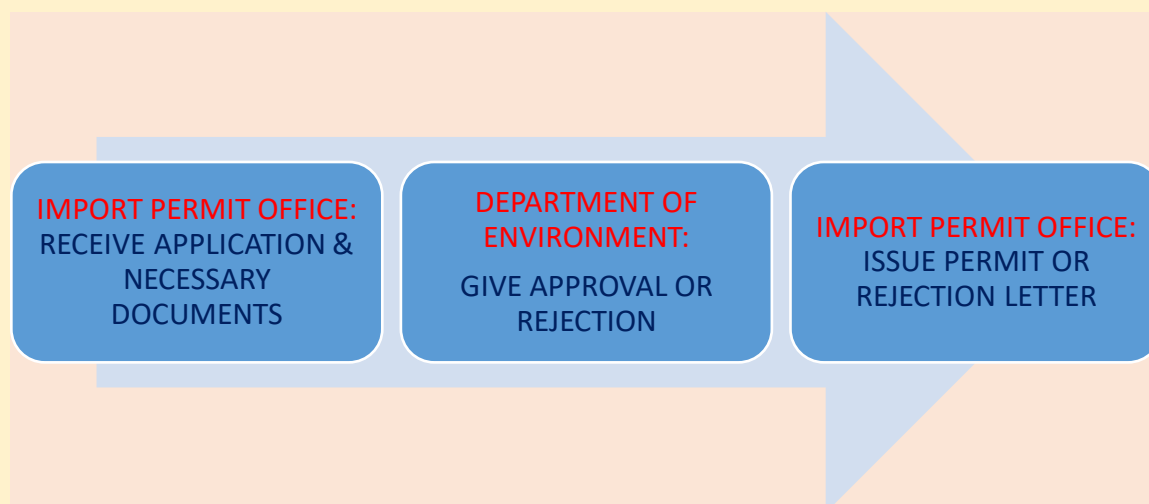




The Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment is responsible for authorizing the importation of ***“Biodegradable bags, Utensils and boxes”*** into the Seychelles.

The applicant can apply for an import permit via our e-service <https://eservice.gov.sc> after registration for a valid e-ID from Import/Export Permit office, or through a clearing agent.

There are two (2) categories of importation.

### **1 CATEGORY No: 1 – Personal import**

#### **1.1 For personal Import:**

1.1.1 Applicants submit request to the IMPORT PERMIT OFFICE (IPO) and is required to provide the following documents:

- (a) Pro-forma invoice
- (b) Certificate of Conformity to which shall stipulate the standard to which it is compliant to.

1.1.2 Upon receipt of all the necessary documents, the application is submitted to the Department of Environment, to conduct assessment to check polymers.

1.1.3 The Department of Environment submits certificate of conformity to the Seychelles Bureau of Standards to undertake verification/ validation of the certificate.

1.1.4 Upon certificate verification and polymer assessment, the Department of Environment send to IPO one the following decisions:

- (a) Approved (b) Rejected
- If approved – Applicant is issued with an import permit
- If rejected - Applicant is issued with a rejection letter

The Department may require the submission of a sample for plastic or polymer identification analysis.

## **1.2 For Commercial Import:**

1.2.1 Applicants submit request to IPO and is required to provide the following documents:

- (a) Pro-forma invoice
- (b) Valid Trading License
- (c) Certificate of Business Registration
- (d) Certificate of TIN
- (e) Certificate of Conformity to which shall stipulate the standard to which it is compliant to.

1.2.3 1.2.2 Upon receipt of all the necessary information, the application is submitted to the Department of Environment, to conduct assessment to check polymers.

1.2.4 The Department of Environment submits certificate of conformity to the Seychelles Bureau of Standards to undertake the verification/ validation of the certificate.

1.2.5 Upon certificate verification and polymer assessment, the Department of Environment sends to IPO one the following decisions:

(a) Approved (b) Rejected

- If approved – Applicant is issued with an import permit
- If rejected - Applicant is issued with a rejection letter

**NOTE: The Environment Protection (Restriction on manufacturing, importations, distribution and sale of Plastic Bags) Regulations, 2017, allows the importation of biodegradable bags, utensils and boxes as per below standards;**

| Type of Bags          | Applicable Standards |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Biodegradable Bags    | AS 4736-2006         |
| Biodegradable boxes   | ASTM D6400           |
| Biodegradable utensil | EN 13432             |
|                       | ISO 14855            |

***“The Trade Department reserves the right to update and amend the leaflet to ensure that they are in line with current practices”***