



THE PLASTIC WRAPPING REGULATIONS 1979

KEITH HOLYOAKE, Governor-General

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington this 17th day of December 1979

Present:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to the Health Act 1956, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes the following regulations.

REGULATIONS

1. Title and commencement—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Plastic Wrapping Regulations 1979.

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the 14th day after the date of their notification in the *Gazette*.

2. Certain plastic bags to be labelled with warning to children—(1) Except as provided in subclause (2) of this regulation, no person shall, in the course of any business, use, for the packing in connection with the sale or delivery or return to a customer of any commodity that is in domestic use, any wrapping in the form of a bag made of polyethylene or similar plastic material of a thickness of 0.025 mm or less, unless there is conspicuously printed on the bag the following warning:

“DANGER—Keep away from small children. The film may cling to the face and prevent breathing.”

(2) This regulation does not apply to any bag—

(a) That is made of polyethylene film of a thickness of more than 0.015 mm and of a density of more than 0.945 mg/mm³; or

(b) That is made of polypropylene, polyester, or polyamide film of a thickness of more than 0.015 mm; or

(c) That has a maximum opening of less than 162 square centimetres.

3. Offence—Every person commits an offence and is liable accordingly under sections 136 and 137 of the Health Act 1956 who uses any wrapping in contravention of regulation 2 of these regulations.

4. Revocations—The following regulations are hereby consequentially revoked:

- (a) The Plastic Wrapping Regulations 1960*:
- (b) The Plastic Wrapping Regulations 1960, Amendment No. 1†.

P. G. MILLEN,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

*S.R. 1960/151
†S.R. 1975/5

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations are made pursuant to the Health Act 1956, and replace the Plastic Wrapping Regulations 1960.

They continue the present requirement that a suitable warning be printed on certain types of plastic bags pointing to the danger of children being suffocated if the bags are drawn over their faces. However, the new regulations exempt those bags that are of a sufficient stiffness to avoid the clinging properties that present the principal hazard.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 20 December 1979.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.