

Single-Use Plastic Charter

Intro

Single-use plastic is a significant threat to life in the ocean and the planet as a whole. The shipping industry has a proud history of facilitating the flow of trade and over the last few decades has been proactive in improving its environmental performance. The Chamber and its members have a goal of **ZERO** pollution from ships to sea from plastic and are committed to continuously minimising the generation of shipborne garbage.

The industry is and must remain vigilant to the significant threat that single use plastic poses. Plastic pollution seriously concerns 89% of people in the UK. It is estimated there are over 150 million tonnes of plastic in the world's oceans and every year one million birds and over 100,000 sea mammals die from eating and getting tangled in plastic waste. A recent government report estimates that plastic in the sea is set to treble by 2025. This is something we cannot allow!

The Chamber has with the help of a number of member companies produced a guidance document entitled "Combating Single Use Plastic in Shipping Best Practice Document" which compiles a number of initiatives to combat the use of single-use plastic. The next step beyond guidance is for industry to lead the way and pledge to eliminating this environmentally disastrous item from our seas forever as laid out in this Charter.

Single-Use Plastic

To provide a standardised understanding across the maritime industry the UN definition of single-use plastics will be used:

Single-use plastics, often also referred to as disposable plastics, are commonly used for plastic packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include, among other items, grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery.

Aim

The aim of the UK Chamber of Shipping "Single-Use Plastic Charter" is for companies to pledge to follow and go beyond the IMO's work and UK Government's commitment to reducing and banning the use of non-essential single-use plastics, replacing them with reusable non-plastic alternatives or biodegradable options where possible, onshore and offshore by April 2020 to show the industry's commitment to this important issue. The list of specified non-essential single-use plastics can be seen as Annex A.

Action required

Members will be asked to commit to this Charter and develop initiatives to eliminate the use of single-use plastics by 2021.

UK COS commitment

The UK Chamber of Shipping will seek to support the adopters of this Charter in achieving their commitments and improving awareness on initiatives to combat single use plastic through guidance and exchange of best practices.

Annex I

List of non-essential single-use plastics to ban and replace

- Plastic Beverage bottles
- Food wrappers
- Plastic bottle caps
- Plastic straws
- Plastic carrier bags
- Plastic containers and lids
- Cotton buds
- Plastic packaging (from food, household items, laundry items, etc)
- Plastic ropes/ coverings
- Plastic serving methods (eg: yogurt and juice cartons and condiment sachets)
- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic cups and plates