

FAQ 22

The Handbook of Selection of Lunch Suppliers has updated its “Procedures of Selecting School Lunch Suppliers” and the parts about “Green and Waste Reduction Measures” in its templates of tender documents. If a school lunch supplier is currently still using disposable lunch containers, is it necessary for the school to request the lunch supplier to use reusable lunch containers and cutlery by amending the contents of the contract signed with the lunch supplier before the contract expires?

Answer:

Schools are encouraged to adopt green lunch practices with a view to making a full-scale use of reusable lunch containers and cutlery for school lunches as soon as possible. Nonetheless, please note that the regulation of disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products has been implemented since 22 April 2024. Schools are required to promptly review the arrangement of school lunch with their lunch suppliers to ensure the compliance with the statutory requirements.

[Note: The regulation on disposable plastic tableware and other plastic products has been implemented since 22 April 2024. As regards the circumstances of school lunches, in accordance with the amended Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Chapter 603), when lunch suppliers offer catering services such as on-site meal portioning to students, they are prohibited from providing nine types of disposable plastic tableware (including expanded polystyrene (EPS) tableware, straws, stirrers, cutlery (forks, knives, spoons), plates, cups, cup lids, food containers, and food container covers). As for providing takeaway services, such as supplying lunch boxes prepared at food factories to students directly, the suppliers are prohibited from providing the first five types of disposable plastic tableware (including EPS tableware, straws, stirrers, cutlery, and plates). For more details on the regulation, please refer to <https://www.cuttheplastics.hk/index.php/en/> .]