Factsheet for operators in the catering and hospitality industry:

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Making hospitality happen for a more sustainable future

Why is there a global shortage of PLA and how will it affect the catering and hospitality industry?

What is PLA?

PLA stands for Polylactic Acid. Made from renewable resources such as corn starch or sugar cane, it's a plant-based polymer designed to substitute widely used petroleum-based plastics like PET (polyethene terephthalate). In the packaging industry, PLA plastics are often used for plastic films, tumblers and food containers.

Why is there a global shortage of PLA?

Over recent months one of the major manufacturers of the raw material PLA (NatureWorks) has started to limit availability to its convertors, due to an increased and emerging demand from existing and other growing sectors e.g. the vaping industry. This production capacity issue and the resulting shortfall of material is also leading to an increase in the cost of PLA to the market. This supply pressure is affecting Far East and UK packaging manufacturers and distributors, so alternative sources of supply are not readily available.

How will this affect me?

As a solution to the current production issue is unclear, some foodservice packaging products manufactured from PLA may be limited or unavailable for an undetermined period of time. PLA tumblers and cold food containers will certainly be affected. PLA coated board items like cups and hot food containers, CPLA sip lids and CPLA cutlery ranges may be impacted too. We are working with our customers to implement product alternatives now.

Are there alternative products?

At Bunzl Catering Supplies we have a number of product alternatives available and we are working with our customers to introduce these items now. Our ranges of recycled PET products boast a number of sustainability credentials and are fully recyclable when disposed of in a dedicated waste stream. As PLA and rPET are designed to enter different waste streams, it is important that your waste provider is aware of any planned changes in material types.

If you think the PLA shortage is likely to affect your foodservice packaging range, contact us today so we can work together to find the best solution for your catering operation:

BUNZL catering supplies

REGIONAL CUSTOMERS:
(CUSTOMER SALES TEAM)
TEL: 0845 604 1454
regional@bunzl.co.uk

NATIONAL CUSTOMERS:
(HOTELS, PUBS, RESTAURANTS, TRAVEL & LEISURE)
TEL: 0845 301 7607
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TEL: 0845 301 7610
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Polarity recycled tumblers

Plain, or in the popular Enjoy design, Polarity tumblers are made with a minimum 50% recycled rPET content, the only plastic material that can be recycled back into food grade material. These Polarity tumblers are a prudent choice ahead of the UK Government proposed tax on plastic products which contain less than 30% recycled content. rPET is widely recyclable via kerbside collection and can be fully recycled into other products.

Huhtamaki

Features and benefits:

- Made in the UK
- Minimum 50% rPET
- Recyclable
- Clear
- Crack resistant
- Shatterproof

Size	Cased	Code	Flat lid	Dome lid
7oz	1000	B02227	B01554	B01533
10oz	1000	B01553	B01554	B01533
12oz	1000	B01543	B01544	B01541
16oz	600	B01640	B01546	B01542
21oz	500	B01548	B01546	B01542

Our market-leading range of food packaging ensures we have suitable material alternatives for all PLA or CPLA products likely to be impacted now or in the future - contact us for more information.

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Revive recycled cold food containers

Manufactured in the UK and embossed with the words "100% recycled plastic – I used to be a bottle", the Revive cold food container is made from 100% recycled rPET content. A high clarity container for optimum food presentation, the Revive salad container has a hinged lid and is easily stackable.

Features and benefits:

- Made in the UK using renewable energy
- 100% rPET
- Recyclable
- Stackable

Size	Cased	Code
375ml	400	H07430
500ml	400	H07431
650ml	300	H07432

Revive
Recycled and Recyclable Packaging

Developed in partnership with
LondonBio Packaging
Your food to go. But even better.

Made from 100% rPET, Revive cold food containers are likely to be exempt from the proposed HMRC Plastic Packaging Tax.

Embossed with the words: "100% recycled plastic - I used to be a bottle"

Small
375ml

Medium
500ml

Large
650ml

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Jewel recycled cold food containers

Manufactured in the UK and boasting a geometric design that fits in the palm of a hand, Jewel containers with clip-on lids are made from 100% recycled rPET content and are fully recyclable. Jewel is a consumer tested design that delivers premium impact and on-the-shelf appeal.

Features and benefits:

- Made in the UK
- 100% rPET
- Recyclable
- Heat seal or clip lid options
- Consumer tested

Size	Cased	Code	Lid
500cc	336	H07425	H07428
750cc	336	H07426	H07428
1000cc	336	H07427	H07428

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