



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

New Regulations to Prevent the Misuse, Repackaging and Export of Subsidised Goods

Government heavily subsidises strategic goods to mitigate the cost of living and protect vulnerable households; however, recent cases of suspected repackaging and unlawful exportation have necessitated stronger legal frameworks to ensure that these goods are used strictly for their intended domestic purposes. In this context, a series of new Regulations have been introduced by Government to control the use and export of these subsidised goods, under the Consumer Protection (Price and Supplies Control) Act.

What the New Regulations Provide:

- **Subsidised Goods are defined as:**
Any good in respect of which a subsidy has been granted, reimbursed, claimed, funded or otherwise applied in full or in part, by or through the Government, the STC, the MRA or any other public body.
- **Repackaging and Resale:** Subsidised goods must not be repackaged, relabelled, or altered for resale. For goods subsidised by the STC, the written authorization of the STC should be obtained for repackaging and resale.
- **Unlawful Possession:** It is an offence to sell, offer for sale, or possess unlawfully repackaged subsidised goods.
- **Export Restrictions:** Subsidised goods shall not be exported, except with a valid export permit. Goods exported without a permit will be deemed to be restricted goods under the Customs Act.
- **Export Exemptions:** Subsidised goods weighing 2 kilogrammes or less being carried as personal baggage for personal consumption abroad would be exempted.
- **Enforcement Powers:** Authorised officers of this Ministry may enter and inspect premises, request invoices and stock records, and seize suspected goods or documents.

Goods Concerned

- Flour, including Whole Wheat Flour, and Long Grain White Rice (ration rice) supplied by the STC.
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in 5 kg, 6 kg, and 12 kg cylinders intended for domestic consumption.
- Goods subsidised under the Price Stabilisation Fund (Fourth Schedule of the Consumer Protection (Consumer Goods) (Maximum Mark-Up) Regulations 1998.

Penalties for non-compliance

- **Fixed Penalties:** A Fixed Penalty Notice of Rs 25,000 will be issued for exporting subsidised goods without an export permit.
- **Fines and Imprisonment:** Unlawful exportation carries a fine of up to Rs 100,000 and imprisonment for up to 3 years. Unlawful repackaging attracts a fine between Rs 50,000 and Rs 100,000 (or Rs 1,000 per package, whichever is higher, subject to a maximum of Rs 100,000).
- **Forfeiture:** The Court may order the forfeiture of seized goods without any compensation to the offender

The Ministry strongly urges all wholesalers, distributors, and retailers to ensure full compliance with the legislations in force. The public is invited to collaborate with the Ministry and to report any breach of these Regulations through the following channels:

Hotline: 185
Telephone: 460 2500

Email: consumerpu@govmu.org
WhatsApp: 5942 8888

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