

Elior UK Plastics Policy

Purpose

Plastic is used widely across the catering industry. It is a strong material which meets the legal necessary requirements for food packaging to protect food contents and therefore the health of our customers.

Most plastics are made from petroleum or natural gas, which are from non-renewable sources. Although plastics can prove to have a lower carbon footprint than other materials when re-used and recycled, a large portion of single-use plastics are not being disposed of through aligned waste streams and is therefore causing environmental issues and is a growing concern for Elior UK.

Scope

Elior UK, its customers and clients are increasingly demanding that our operation reduce the need for the inclusion of single-use plastics within our catering offer, but also by working with our suppliers on reducing packaging in its entirety by adopting the latest innovations in sustainable packaging and widening the use of return and reuse schemes within the supply chain. This must be achieved without any compromise in food safety and health & safety which remain our highest priority.

Commitments

Operations will assess on an ongoing basis whether items that are made from plastic are necessary and whether a suitable environmentally friendly alternative is available and practical. Plastic straws and plastic stirrers were banned in 2018. Plastic straws will only be allowed within operations where the customer has a medical or care requirement and where there is no suitable replacement.

Products within our supply chain that include plastic straws or stirrers as an integral component, such as drinks cartons with attached straws were banned in England in July 2021.

Elior UK discourages single-use and promote the use of re-usable items across the business and will remove disposables where practical, including single-use cutlery. Where this is not possible, Elior UK promote the use of disposables made from lower carbon, renewable or recycled materials, not plastic. As a minimum, Elior UK will require disposables to avoid landfill, working with the client and waste contractor to send disposables through appropriate and more environmentally friendly waste streams that are available. Energy from waste plants will be the minimum accepted standard.

Elior UK will continue to evolve and adjust its environmentally friendly processes and systems. Elior colleagues will be encouraged to take part in community projects such as beach cleans, consumer awareness campaigns and other appropriate activities on at least an annual basis. Elior will play an active part in relevant policy conferences on waste legislation and continue to press government through our trade representatives to introduce a single, integrated and farsighted approach to waste processing and recycling that applies throughout the country.

Governance

This policy will be reviewed at least annually at Board level and will be revised in accordance with any recommendations of the Director of CSR, Marketing Director or Head of Purchasing. Elements of this policy could change as legislation evolves and suitable products in the market become available. The Elior UK Director of CSR is committed to source and share expert advice and guidance on the topic of plastic based on the most up to date information that is available at the time.



Catherine Roe

Chief Executive, Elior UK

14 December 2022