



SF Environment
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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Supervisor London Breed, President of Board of Supervisors

FROM: Deborah Raphael, ^{D.R.} Director

RE: Polystyrene Foam Ban Ordinance Waiver for cold temperature medical shipping

DATE: April 18, 2016

This memorandum confirms that the Department of Environment agrees to provide a waiver for a period of 3 years, from the implementation date of your proposed Polystyrene Foam Ban Ordinance, to allow the continued use of polystyrene foam packaging to ship sensitive medical devices and medicine requiring cold temperatures.

This waiver will be provided in response to the request you received from the local medical community to meet their cold temperature medical shipping needs. We understand that demonstrated feasible packaging alternatives to polystyrene foam have yet to be identified to keep medical devices and medicine at required cold temperatures. The Department acknowledges the unique requirements and challenge to the medical industry to find and demonstrate safer alternatives that meet their stringent temperature sensitive medical shipping needs currently met with the use of polystyrene foam.

The Department will formally grant the waiver after the passage of the ordinance, once procedures have been developed for such waivers. We anticipate requiring yearly status reports, from those using polystyrene foam under this waiver, on progress to identify and test polystyrene foam alternatives for cold temperature medical shipping.

We share your goal of banning the use of polystyrene foam, but will issue this waiver given the critical public health considerations with medical shipping. Thank you for your continued leadership in helping move San Francisco toward zero waste.