

Packaging materials and reporting categories

Types of materials

• Paper

All packaging made from paper, cardboard and corrugated board. Examples are cereal packets, rolls/bobbins (in rolls regarding toilet paper, aluminium and plastic wrap), shoe boxes, paper carrier bags, beverage cartons, mail-order and padded bags, etc.

• Plastic

Packaging made from plastic, i.e. all polymer based packaging materials, including cellophane, starch and other plastic-like materials. Examples are plastic carrier bags, shampoo and ketchup bottles, toothpaste tubes, jam buckets, plastic containers, plastic strapping, shrink wrap, etc.

• Metal

Packaging made from steel plate (magnetic) and aluminium (non-magnetic). Examples are paint, food and spray cans, lids, bottle caps, steel drums/oil barrels (30-250 liter), strip steel, baling wire, etc. For more information, refer to FTI's Instructions.

Reporting categories

Household packaging

Packaging materials sorted for recycling by households.

310 Paper (high), household

315 Paper (low), household

410 Plastic (high), household

415 Plastic (low), household

511 Aluminium, household

512 Steel plate, household

Commercial packaging

Packaging materials sorted for recycling by companies, industries or other organizations.

320 Paper, commercial

420 Plastic, commercial

521 Aluminium, commercial

522 Steel plate, commercial*

**From January 1, 2022, all commercial packaging of steel and plate (incl. barrels, steel plate and wire) shall be reported as item 522 Steel Plate.*

Service Packaging

Special terms and conditions apply to manufacturer's packaging, refer to FTI's Instructions and the "Service Packaging" factsheet.

Service Packaging refers to packaging materials that are mainly filled in stores, restaurants and similar. Examples are carrier bags, plastic and paper bags (for fruit, vegetables, bread, candy, etc.), gift boxes, pizza boxes and other take away packaging, as well as grower packaging.

Grower packaging refers to packaging materials that are mainly used for unprocessed products from agriculture, horticulture and similar, such as the plastic film around cucumbers and lettuces, plastic bags for carrots, egg cartons/trays, etc. One exception is 30-egg trays, which are reported as either household or commercial packaging.

330 Paper (high), service packaging

335 Paper (low), service packaging

430 Plastic (high), service packaging

435 Plastic (low), service packaging

531 Aluminium, service packaging

Packaging determination

In most cases, household packaging and commercial packaging are easy to identify. Although borderline cases sometimes arise, the decisive factor is whether the packaging is sorted for recycling by households or businesses.

Some examples:

An importer sells computers directly to a municipality. The municipality is a business and all products sold to the municipality can be assumed to end up in municipal operations. All packaging materials are therefore classified as commercial packaging.

Same importer sells products via their own web shop directly to consumer. All products including packaging material that is sold to a consumer is assumed to end up in a household and is classified as household packaging.

If the end customer is unclear (either household or business), the packaging is classified as household packaging.

Differentiated fee structure for plastic packaging

Level 1 (the higher fee)

All plastic packaging that does not meet the criteria for Level 2 fee.

Level 2 (the lower fee)

Plastic packaging that is designed for high recyclability without loss of quality in the recycling process qualifies for a lower packaging fee if the following criteria are met. The criteria are divided by specified packaging type that is currently sorted out for material recycling: flexible packaging made of PE as well as rigid packaging made of PE, PP, blow-moulded PET, and vacuum/thermoformed PET.

Flexible packaging of PE:

- The packaging is made of LDPE, HDPE, LLDPE, or machine-oriented PE (MDOPE or BOPE).
- The material contains no additives (incl. fillers) that increase the density of the material to more than 0.97 g/cm³.
- The plastic material is not coloured with dark

colours (incl. black) which can interfere with the NIR sorting

- Exceptions are made for pigments where sorting tests have verified that the pigment does not interfere with the detection of the plastic type.

- A maximum of 5% by weight admixture of PP.
- The packaging does not consist of multi-layer materials joined with glue/adhesive.
- Co-extruded PE-PE films, incl. any of the following barrier materials are allowed:
 - SiO_x
 - AlO_x
 - Barrier dispersed in the polymer matrix.
 - EVOH, max 5% by weight.
 - PA6/66 copolymer with a melting temperature below 192 °C, max 15% by weight, and with at least 10% PE-g-MAH tielayer.
- The packaging does not have a print that covers more than 60 percent of the outer surface of the packaging
Printing: Both coloured and non-coloured surface coating.
Outer surface: The part outside of the package that is visible without flaps, and similar, being folded up.

Rigid packaging made of PE or PP:

- The packaging is made of one of the following materials: LDPE, HDPE, LLDPE, MDPE or PP.
- The material must be free of fillers (for example chalk, talc or plant fibres).
- The material does not contain any additives that increase the density of the material to more than 0.97 g/cm³.
- No black colouring.
- Coextruded multilayer materials with several layers of the same plastic type (PE-PE or PP-PP), as well as coextruded multilayer materials of PE or PP (rigid PP, not flexible PP) with any of the following barrier materials are permitted:
 - EVOH, max 6% by weight when PE-g-MAH (for PE packaging) or PP-g-MAH (for PP packaging) tielayer is used.
- The packaging does not have a print that covers more than 60 percent of the outer surface of the packaging.
Printing: Both coloured and non-coloured surface coating.

Outer surface: The part of the outside of the package that is visible without flaps, and similar, being folded up.

- The packaging does not have a full-covering shrink sleeve of a different plastic type than the main packaging (the guideline is a maximum of 60% coverage of the surface).

Uncoloured blow-moulded rigid PET packaging (e.g. bottles and jars, without deposit):

- The packaging is made of blow-moulded uncoloured or transparent light blue PET.
- The material contains no filler.
- SiO_x plasma coating as a barrier is allowed.
- The packaging has no direct printing (with the exception of the production/expiry date or laser marking).
- The packaging does not have full-covering shrink sleeve (the guideline is max. 60% coverage of the surface).

Uncoloured thermoformed/vacuum-formed rigid PET packaging (e.g., PET trays):

- The packaging is made of thermoformed uncoloured or transparent light blue PET.
 - PET does not mean any other PET-based multilayer material or material containing: PET/PE; PLA, PVC, PS, PETG, C-PET, PET-GAG, expanded PET.
- PET-based oxygen scavengers as a barrier with no yellowing effect on the recycled material when tested according to the EPBP oven test is allowed.
- The packaging has no direct printing except for production marking (such as expiry/packing date or batch number) and laser marking.
- Adhesives for labels must be releasable or soluble in 70°C alkaline water without leaving adhesive residues on the PET packaging.
- For sealing films:
 - If the film is made of mono-PET (incl. BOPET and OPET), it must not contain any printing
 - SiO_x and AlO_x as a barrier in the sealing film is allowed.

- Other films must have a density <1 g/cm³ and be easily separable by the consumer before the packaging is left for recycling without leaving adhesive or film residues on the PET packaging.

- The adhesive shall be washoffable or soluble in 80°C alkaline water and not be reactivated after washing.

- Absorbent mats must be easily separable and leave no residues in the PET packaging, the adhesive shall be washoffable or soluble in 80°C alkaline water and not be reactivated after washing.
 - PE or PP based absorbents are OK and should have a density <1 g/cm³.
 - Paper fibre-based absorbents are not allowed, with the exception of absorbents that are not attached to the PET packaging with glue or other attachments and the packaging has clear sorting instructions that the absorbent must be sorted separately (NOTE; these are reported separately under the category paper packaging and its criteria).

Differentiated fee structure for paper packaging

Level 1 (highest fee)

All paper packaging, including corrugated cardboard, that contains any type of:

- Plastic, wax, or aluminium coating
- Plastic windows attached to the paper packaging
- Wet-strength paper that is not water-soluble
- Composite material comprising a blend of paper fiber and plastic

Level 2 (lowest fee)

All paper packaging, including corrugated cardboard, that is 100% paper.

The criteria are revised annually by FTI and its owner companies, based on the recycling potential of a specific material.

Contact us for more information

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