

2022 PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION ON PACKAGING & PACKAGING WASTE

UPDATE

The most recent update to the Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive places significant focus on the acknowledgement and harmonisation of a complex regulatory environment for all actors in European value chains.

A potential Regulation on Packaging & Packaging Waste would seek to expand Extended Producer Responsibility, clearly define what forms of packaging fall under new guidelines, and significantly increase the granularity of data the EU collects on packaging waste and recycling.

Take a look at the implications of this Proposal, as detailed by CIRCPACK®:

What changes do you need to be aware of?

1 Packaging minimization

As of 1st January 2030

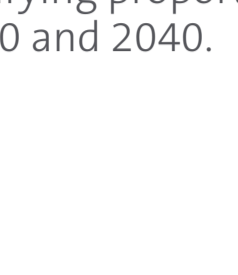


Each unit of packaging shall be scaled down to its minimum size.

The weight, volume and layers of packaging must take into account the safety and functionality of the package.



Empty space rate of up to 40% for transport and e-commerce packaging.



Superfluous packaging not fulfilling a defined packaging function shall not be placed on the market.

Space filled by filling materials, such as air cushions, foam, or paper shall be considered empty space.

2 Minimum recycled content

As of 1st January 2030



Plastic packaging must contain a minimum amount of recycled content.

These content requirements are defined by broad end-use segments and have been given varying proportions of recycled content targets, to be met by 2030 and 2040.

| Segment | 2030 Target | 2040 Target |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Contact sensitive plastic packaging* (PET as major component) | > 30% | N/A |
| Contact sensitive plastic packaging* (All other than PET) | > 10% | N/A |
| Contact sensitive plastic packaging* (All) | N/A | > 50% |
| Single use plastic beverage bottles | > 30% | > 65% |
| For other plastic packaging | > 35% | > 65% |

*This requirement does not apply to most medical packaging, nor does it apply to compostable plastic packaging.

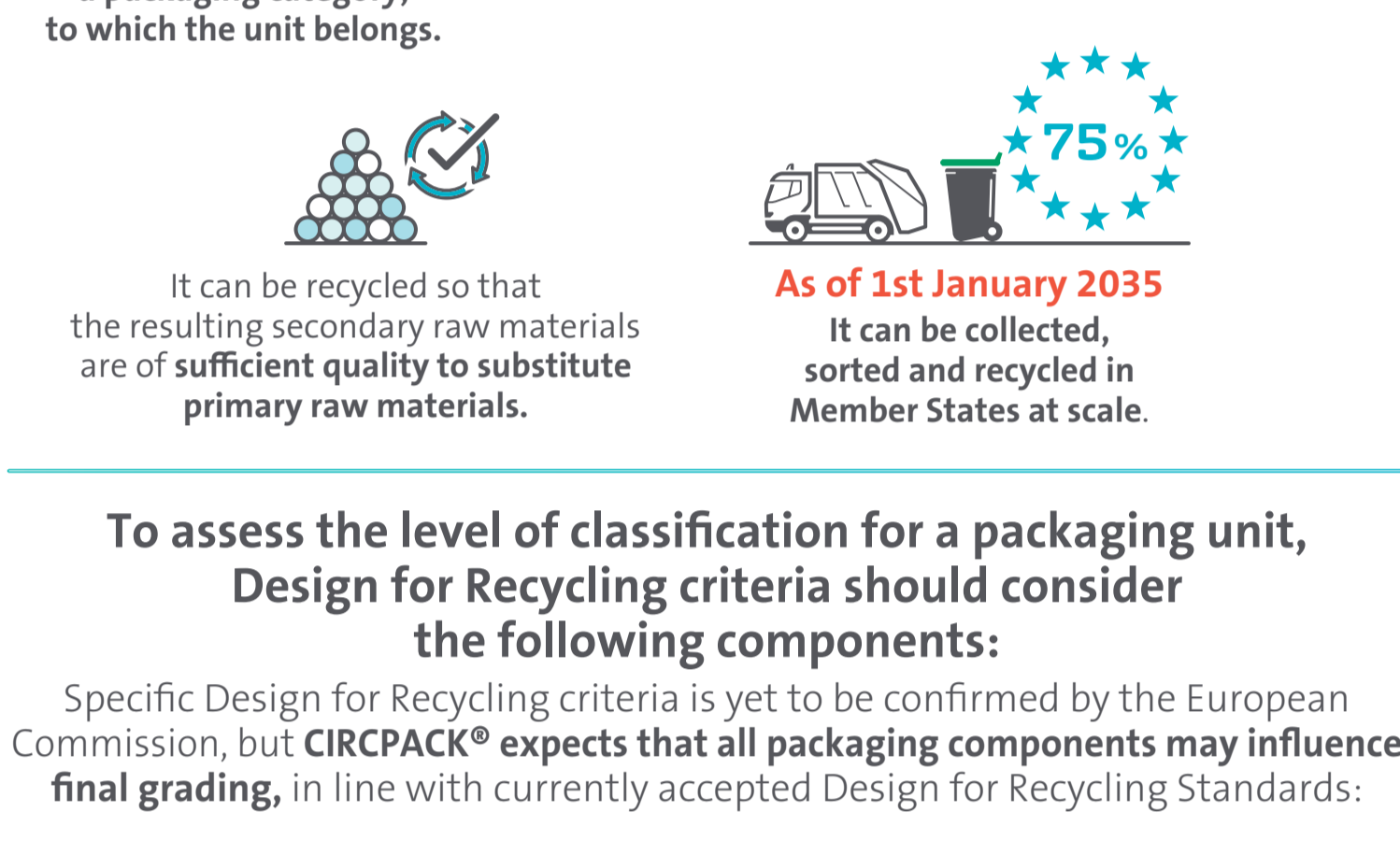
3 Design for Recycling

The European principles of Design for Recycling have been harmonised:

5 level categorisation

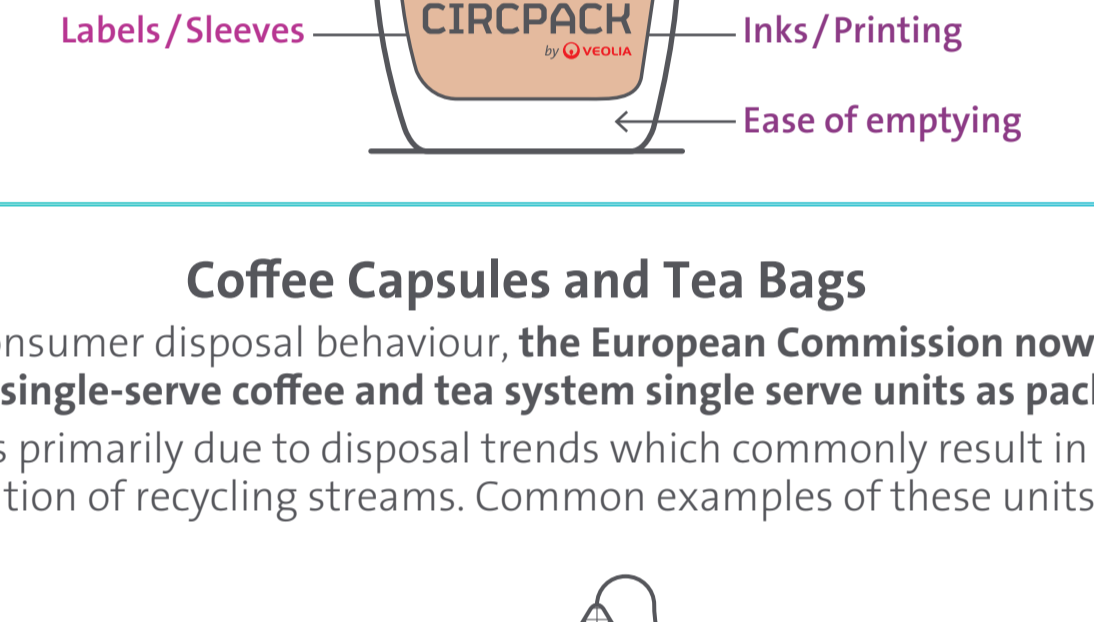


Your packaging will be considered recyclable within Europe if:



To assess the level of classification for a packaging unit, Design for Recycling criteria should consider the following components:

Specific Design for Recycling criteria is yet to be confirmed by the European Commission, but CIRCPACK® expects that all packaging components may influence final grading, in line with currently accepted Design for Recycling Standards:



Coffee Capsules and Tea Bags

In light of consumer disposal behaviour, the European Commission now considers single-serve coffee and tea single serve units as packaging.

This is primarily due to disposal trends which commonly result in the contamination of recycling streams. Common examples of these units include:



As packaging, single-serve coffee and tea units are obligated to meet the above Design for Recycling criteria by 2030.

4 Biodegradable packaging

The new Proposal contains provisions for biodegradable packaging waste to count toward national recycling targets*.

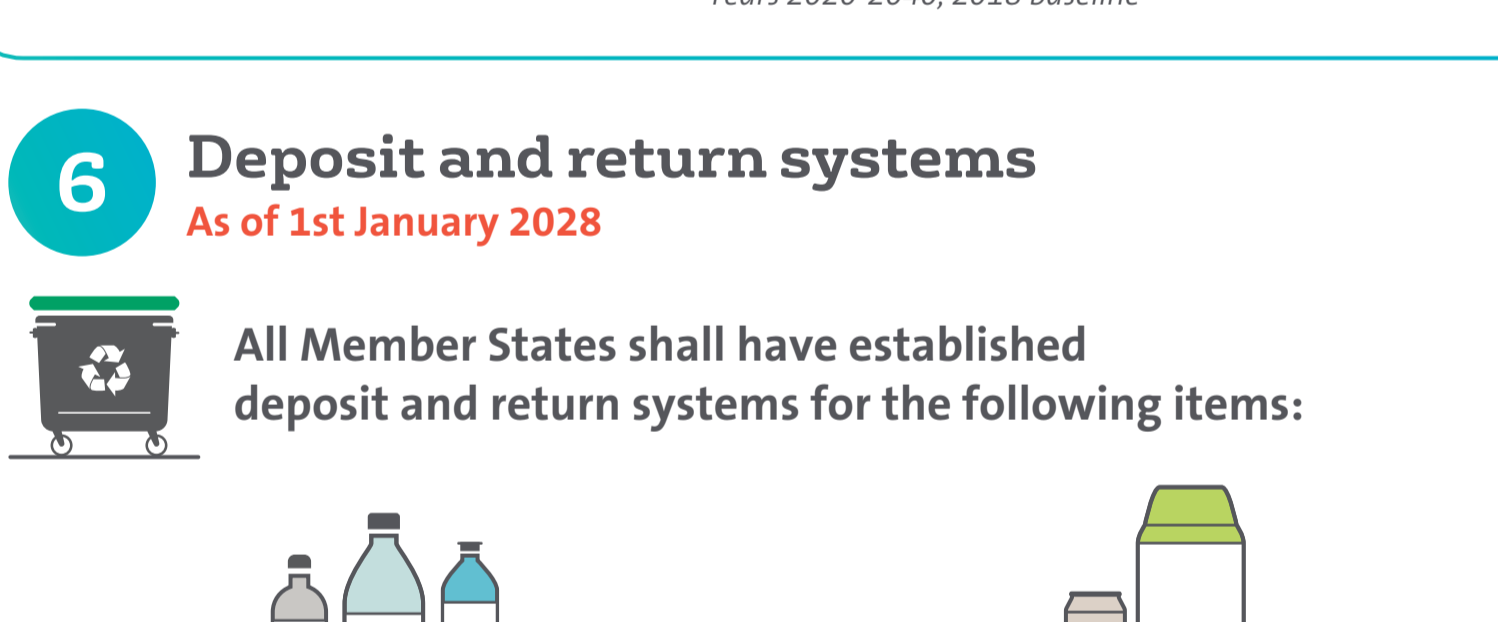
The Commission has outlined the following product segments as low-hanging fruit in this segment:



*provided that composting and similar treatments generate an output to be used as a recycled product, material, or substance.

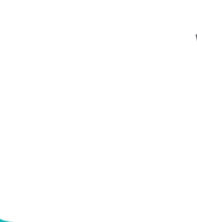
5 New waste prevention targets

To be met on a five year basis through 2040



6 Deposit and return systems

As of 1st January 2028



All Member States shall have established deposit and return systems for the following items:



With the exception of wine, aromatised wine products, and spirits, most milk and milk product containers (As listed in Annex I of EU Regulation 13/08/2013)

7 Re-use and refill

As of 1st January 2030

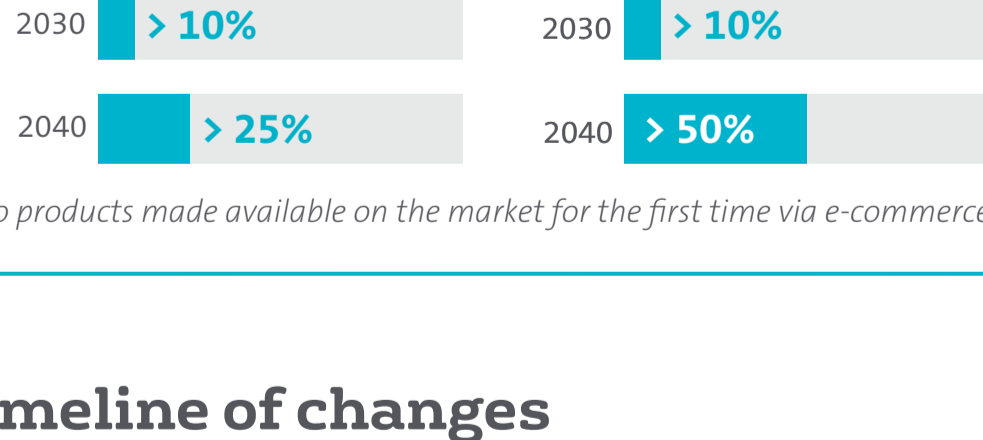


Re-use and refill is a key component of the European Commission's plan to reduce packaging waste in both food and transport segments.

To this end, a certain percentage of primary, secondary, and tertiary packaging should be made to be reusable within a system for re-use. The below targets have been set for food end-use segments to meet by 2030 and 2040:

| Segment | 2030 Target | 2040 Target |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Beer and other alcoholic beverages other than wine | > 10% | > 25% |
| Wine, excluding sparkling wine | > 5% | > 15% |
| Non-alcoholic beverages including water and juices | > 10% | > 25% |

Additionally, key targets have been placed on takeaway containers for food and drink:



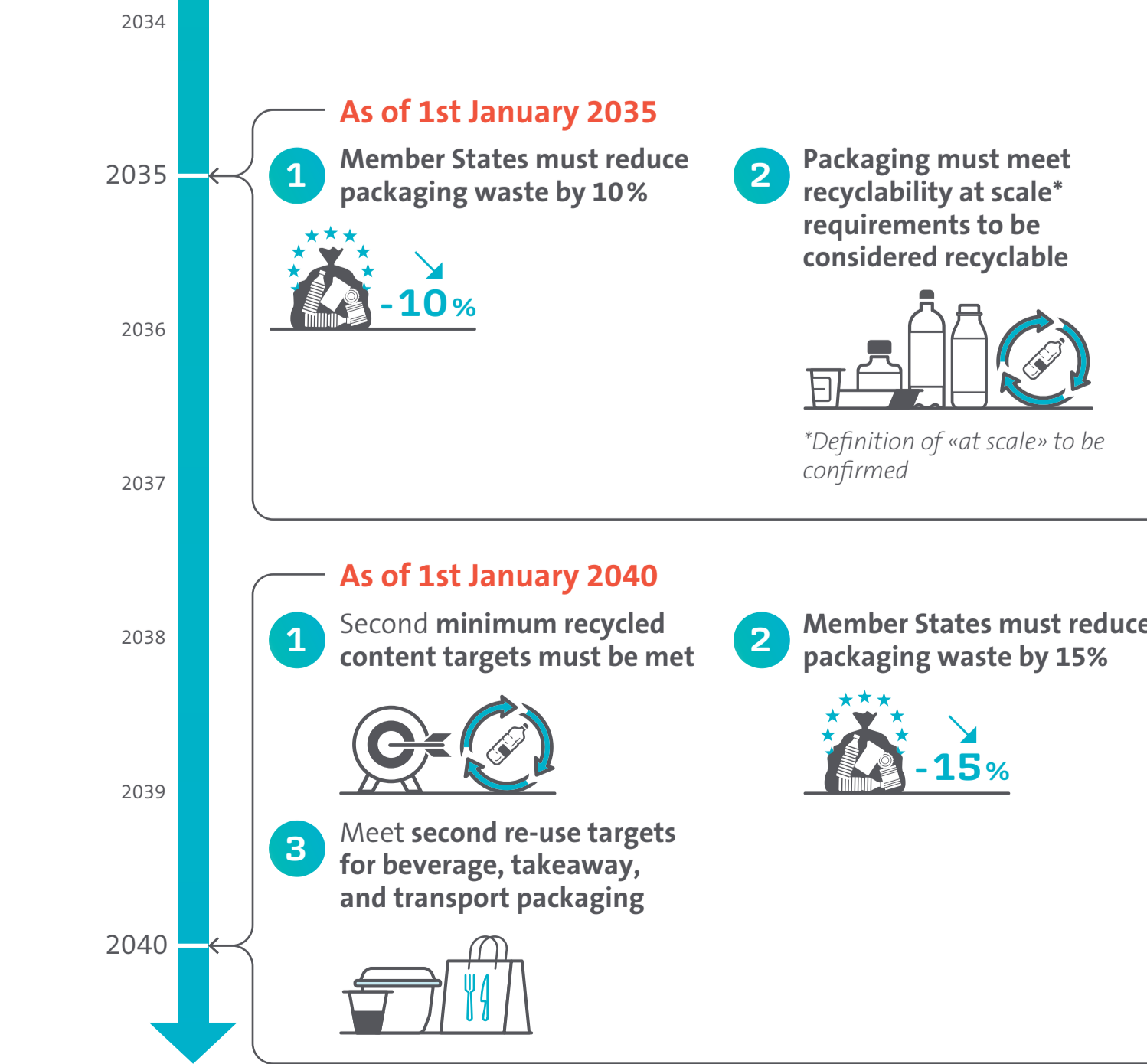
*Only food intended for immediate consumption without the need of any further preparation and consumed from the receptacle must meet these requirements

Additionally, the below targets have been set for consumer goods transport end-use segments to meet by 2030 and 2040:



*Only applicable to products made available on the market for the first time via e-commerce

8 Timeline of changes



As a brand owner or packaging manufacturer, you want to opt for sustainable, even recyclable packaging. But how can you make sure that your packaging really is recyclable?

What combination of packaging materials should you use, or avoid?

With the CIRCPACK® solution, we use our knowledge and expertise in collection, sorting and recycling industries to help you make your packaging recyclable and truly eco-friendly.

Ask a professional at circpack@veolia.com