



Kennisinstituut
Duurzaam Verpakken

Expra discussion

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Netherlands Institute for Sustainable packaging

KIDV Recycle Checks

One of the actions you can take to achieve more sustainable packaging is to improve the recyclability of your packaging. Therefore the KIDV has developed Recycle Checks. A Recycle Check consists of a decision tree with questions and background information, on the basis of which you can determine whether your packaging has good recyclability or not.

The Recycle Checks are updated annually and are currently available for the packaging materials listed below. The KIDV is also working on a Recycle Check for packaging of glas and paper and cardboard.



Tool

Recycle Check rigid plastic packaging



Tool

Recycle Check flexible plastic packaging



Community of Practice Laminate Packaging

KIDV initiated a Community of Practice (CoP) with a consortium of companies facing similar challenges related to developing metallised flexible packaging that is suitable for the circular economy. The consortium members are FrieslandCampina, Intersnack, Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Mars Wrigley, Pepsico and Unilever.

Decision tree Recycle Check for Flexible Plastic Packaging

Collecting	A: Is the packaging made of flexible plastic?	No	This Recycle Check applies only to flexible plastic packaging. Click here for the Recycle Check for Rigid Plastic Packaging	No PMD
	B: Should the packaging be sorted with residual waste?	Yes	Packaging sorted with residual waste, such as nets, medical product packaging and small chemical waste fall outside the scope of this Recycle Check.	
Disruptors	1. Is the packaging free of oxo-degradable material?	No	Oxo-degradable plastics disrupt the recycling process.	Not recyclable or non-recyclable
	2. Is the packaging free of PVC or PVdC?	No	PVC and PVdC disrupt the recycling of other plastics.	
	3. Is the packaging free of elastomers, such as silicone?	No	Elastomers, such as silicones, disrupt the plastic recycling process.	
	4. Is the packaging free of non-plastic layers?	No	Non-plastic layers disrupt the plastic recycling process.	
Sorting	5. Is the packaging larger than 40x40mm?	No	Undersized packaging is currently not sorted for recycling and ends up being incinerated.	Limited recyclability
	6. Is the packaging larger than A4 size?	No	Flexible packaging with dimensions between 40x40mm and A4 is not always sorted by material and ends up in the mixed stream.	
	7. Is the packaging free of rigid components?	No	Flexible packaging with rigid components is difficult to sort, and can hinder the recycling of flexible bottles.	
Recyclability	8. Is the packaging made of PE?	No	Flexible packaging made from other plastics (PP, PET, PA, EPP, PS and PLA), is currently sub-optimally recyclable. These materials end up in the mixed stream.	Reasonably recyclable
	9. Do adhesives or other materials hinder recycling?	No	Additions such as barriers, coatings and/or fillers can hinder recycling.	
Recyclability	10. Do labels hinder recycling?	No	Labels made from a material other than the packaging hinder recycling by combining different materials.	Reasonably recyclable
	11. Do adhesives hinder recycling?	No	Non-washable adhesives, hot-melt adhesives and pressure-sensitive adhesives hinder the recycling process.	
Recyclability	12. Do metal parts hinder recycling?	No	Metal parts disrupt the recycling process	GOOD
	Tip: to help consumers dispose of packaging correctly, it can be wise to apply a logo to the packaging. For more information, see Weggooiwijzer.nl .			

Questions from Grun punkt norway

First: Critical points to be covered by a calculator to meet the needs of flexible packaging:

The effect on recyclability of

- Colours:
We always get questions about **carbon black** and recyclability.
The answer changes very slowly
- Barriers:
 - EVOH: Is 5 weight% a reasonable limit?
 - Metallized films: Is 5 μm ok?
- Print:
 - Coverage of print on the surface
 - Lacquer
 - Print between layers in flexible packaging
 - Ink types - bleed

Discussion

What if you had millions and all the goodwill in the world to spend on making flexible packaging more sustainable, with the focus on recycling?

- How would you invest that? Which theme, subject or issue would you choose?
 - Metalization minimisation/removal
 - Glue impact
 - EVOH compatibility with polymer
- Where would you invest that?
 - All your packaging
 - Food or non food packaging
 - Other priorities packaging
- How can the different stakeholders support the process?
 - Who has to change their operation? For example material producers, packaging producers, brandowners/retailers, consumers, sorters, recyclers, policymakers, producer responsibility organisations, or
 - Are you aware of best practices?