



# ENVIRONMENTAL FACT FILE

## Packaging and Packaging Waste

### 1. Applicability

Packaging and packaging waste legislation (see Section 5. Legislation for details) applies to manufacturers and distributors producing, or companies buying from outside the EU, goods that are packaged for protection, containment, transport, handling or presentation. These companies are therefore able to influence the type of packaging used and its disposal.

The producer responsibility regulations are applicable to organisations that handle more than 50 tonnes of packaging per year and have an annual turnover of over £2million. However, the general principles of packaging reduction apply universally and can help all manufacturing companies save money.

### 2. Background

These regulations have been brought into effect to encourage producers and manufacturers to reduce the volume of packaging that products are sold in, and where it cannot be reduced to ensure that as much as possible can be easily recycled.

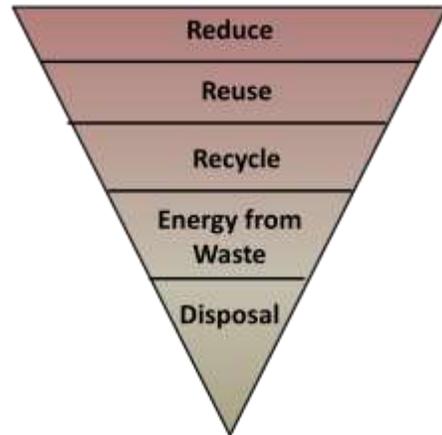
### 3. Overview

Packaging should be life cycle assessed for lowest environmental impact of reduction, reuse or recycling.

- The regulations apply to all packaging and packaging waste wherever used, regardless of material used
- The regulations aim to increase the amount of packaging waste that is recycled or incinerated at energy recovery facilities
- Companies should take measures to prevent/reduce packaging waste and develop packaging reuse systems
- Product compliance can be self-declared
- Action is not required in respect of goods exported to other EU countries
- Products are not required to be “CE marked”

#### 4. Action Required

- Review packaging produced for distribution and sales of your products following the waste hierarchy model --->
- Can the current materials used be swapped for recycled materials, or materials that can be recycled more easily? For example, find out if plastics used are recyclable as some plastics aren't. Can cardboard packaging be procured from a recycled source?
- Are your products packaged for easy transportation? For example do they stack easily together, and is packaging low weight and low volume (without risking damaging the product)
- Document measures taken to reduce waste packaging
- Join a compliance scheme where applicable



#### 5. Relevant Legislation

UK Regulation - [The Producer Responsibility Obligations \(Packaging Waste\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2010](#)

EU Regulation - [Directive 94/62/EC 1994 on packaging and packaging waste](#) (Amended by Directive 2005/20/EC, 2005 to clarify the term 'packaging')

Effective since June 1996

Responsibility in the UK is on the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS)

#### 6. Further Information

[WRAP guidance on packaging](#)

[National Packaging Waste Database](#) (for registration to Packaging Compliance Schemes)

[Directive on European Commission website](#)

[Business Link - Product Labelling and Packaging](#)

[Recycle More Guidance](#)

[Setting up a recycling scheme at work](#)

[Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment](#)

Euralarm documents are available covering EU-wide legislation, available upon request from the FIA.

#### Disclaimer

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