

ALDI International Recyclability Guidelines

Version 5.0 | April 2026

Content

Revision History 3

1 Preface 4

2 Recyclability requirements for products on sale in Great Britain 5

3 How to read and apply the Packaging Material Guide 6

3.1 How to read the Acceptance Overview 7

3.2 How to read the Design for Recycling (DfR) Guide 8

3.3 Quick overview of packaging features 10

4 Packaging Material Guide 12

4.1 PET-bottles transparent 14

4.2 PET-bottles coloured (transparent & opaque) 18

4.3 PET trays 22

4.4 PET others 26

4.5 PE packaging (rigid) 30

4.6 PP packaging (rigid) 34

4.7 PS packaging 38

4.8 PE-based films, pouches 42

4.9 PP-based films, pouches 46

4.10 Liquid packaging board 50

4.11 Tinplate cans 54

4.12 Aluminium packaging 58

4.13 Paper-based packaging: folding boxes bags, pouches, composites 62

v4.15 Highlighted packaging formats 70

4.16 Currently not accepted and non-recyclable packaging materials/formats 72

5 Classification of licence fees of composite packaging/coated paper 73

6 Eco-modulation in ALDI countries 74

7 Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) 92

8 Glossary 94

9 Annex 96

Revision History

V1 May 2022 → **V2 April 2023** → **V2.1 Sept 2023** → **V3.0 April 2024** → **V4.0 April 2025** → **V5.0 April 2026**

Version	Chapter / Part	Change description
V2	Restructure introduction of Packaging Material Guide	Rename and restructure of introduction chapter “How to Read and Apply Packaging Material Guide” (former chapter “Basics and quick overview”)
V2	Restructure part of Packaging Material Guide	Change from Infrastructure overview to ALDI’s Acceptance Overview per packaging format
V2	New chapter - Highlighted packaging formats	New chapter integrated for Packaging Material Guide for providing further information on special packaging formats
V2	New chapter - Currently not accepted and non-recyclable packaging formats	New chapter integrated for Packaging Material Guide for providing an overview of currently not accepted packaging formats by ALDI
V2	Update and renamed Eco-modulation in individual countries	Updates to content of “Eco-modulation in individual countries” (former “Incentives in individual countries”)
V2.1	Packaging Material Guide - PET Others (4.3)	Adjustments to DfR requirements based on technical developments in the market and to facilitate better understanding
V3.0	General content update	Updates to Acceptance Overviews and DfR Guides and eco-modulation in individual countries
V3.0	Country specific table for national specific DfR specifications and /or deviations	Introduction of country specific table within DfR Guide to introduce and link national specific DfR specifications and deviations
V4.0	General content update	Adjustments in the material guide for PET others and updates to eco-modulation in individual countries
V5.0	New chapter - Requirements for products on sale in Great Britain General content update	Outlines specific design-for-recycling requirements and compliance obligations under the UK Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation and Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM). General adjustments to DfR requirements based on technical developments in the market and updates to eco-modulation in individual countries. Separation of Design for Recycling and Recycling at Scale.

1 Preface

Packaging plays an essential role in modern retail, protecting and presenting products while making them accessible to customers worldwide. At the same time, it brings a responsibility to minimise environmental impact through circular and recyclable design.

As a global retailer, ALDI faces both the opportunities and the challenges of evolving packaging regulations. From the European Union's **Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation** (EU 2025/40) *(see chapter 7)*, Great Britain's robust extended producer responsibility and labelling systems *(see chapter 2)*, to diverse national and state-level rules, legislation is rapidly reshaping how packaging is developed, used, and recycled.

Recognising the distinct and rapidly changing regulatory landscape in Great Britain, we have included a dedicated chapter (see page 5) within these guidelines specifically addressing the requirements for products on sale there. This chapter ensures that ALDI and its suppliers remain fully compliant with the **Extended Producer Responsibility legislation** (under the Producer Responsibility Obligations Regulations), including the mandatory packaging data collection and the stringent Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process. Packaging components assessed as non-recyclable ('RED' under RAM) will face additional fees and increased scrutiny, potentially affecting product clearance and sale.

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

Within these guidelines, "recyclability" means that packaging must be designed so that, once it becomes waste:

- It can be collected separately,
- It is sortable into dedicated material streams,
- It is compatible with proven recycling processes in a real-world context,
- It produces secondary raw materials of such quality that they can replace primary materials for new packaging or similar uses.

ALDI's International Recyclability Guidelines are here to support suppliers and partners in navigating this dynamic environment, providing a source of design-for-recycling criteria. Created by ALDI Nord and ALDI SOUTH in collaboration with the Institute cyclos-HTP (CHI), these guidelines reflect ALDI's ongoing commitment to supporting a transition to a circular economy.

2 Recyclability requirements for products on sale in Great Britain

Following the launch of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation - link - for products sold in the UK, Aldi must collect packaging data for ALL products placed on sale from Jan 2024 onwards.

As part of these regulations, all packaging is assessed against the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) to determine recyclability. Packaging components that are non-recyclable will be subject to additional EPR fees to account for the increased cost of disposal. Due to this, Aldi need to ensure as little packaging as possible is assessed as '**RED**' under the EPR. Packaging components that are assessed as **RED** will be **rejected** for Clearance to Supply except for extenuating circumstances (assessed on a product level basis). This could result in products not going on sale or being delayed until the packaging is changed.

To assist with your packaging development, Aldi have provided their interpretation of the RAM in the attached to assist Business Partners with assessing their packaging (link). This is based from PackUK guidance located on their website (link). To ensure your products go on sale with no delay, we encourage you to use this guidance to ensure all packaging is recyclable before submitting your PAS.

3 How to read and apply the Packaging Material Guide

Chapter 3.1 explains how to read and use the Acceptance Overview, which refers only to primary/sales packaging. Chapter 3.2 explains how to read each Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide. Chapter 3.3 introduces packaging **features that influence recyclability** which are analysed in the DfR Guides. Each packaging feature is described, with an additional overview of basic do's and don'ts for design.

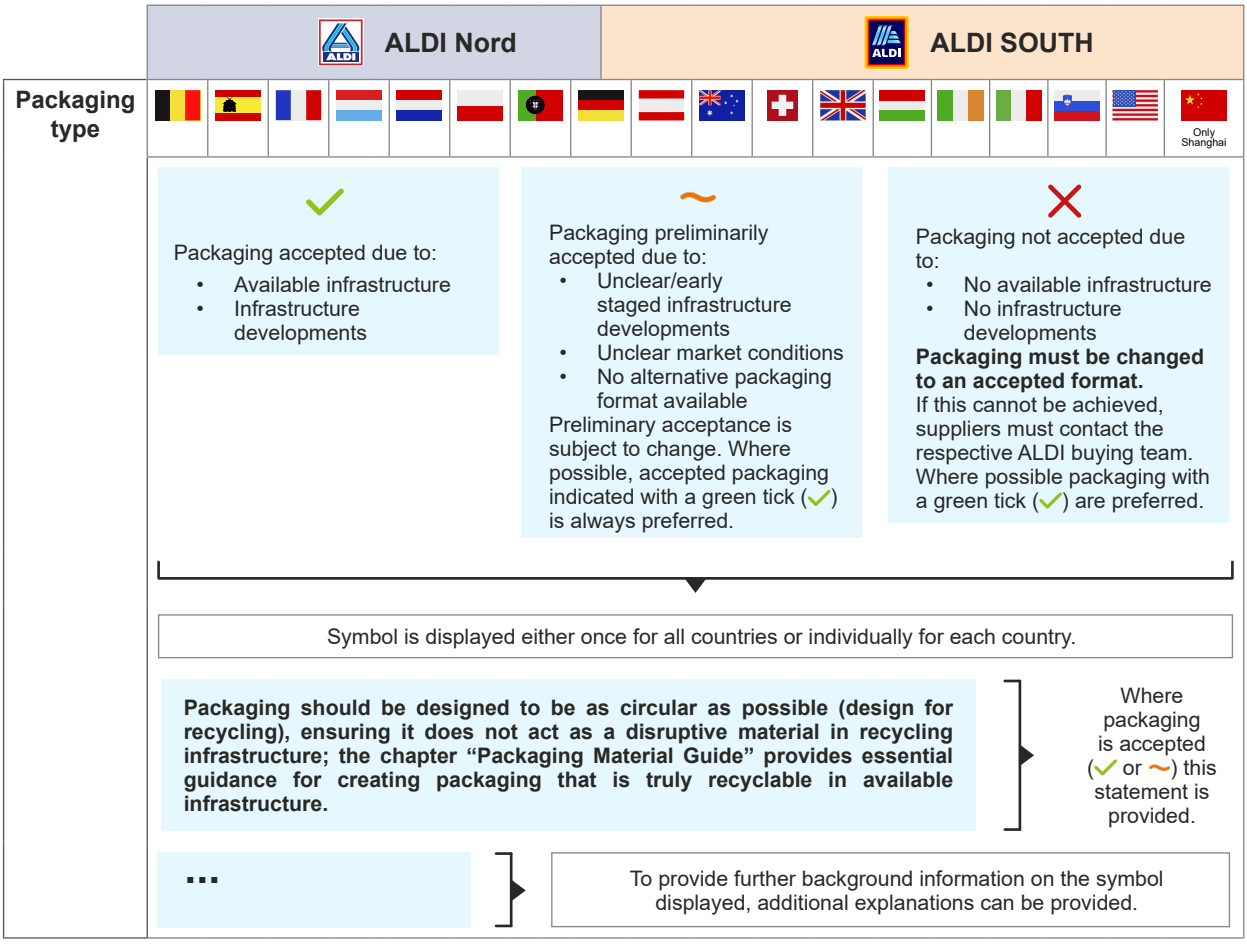
Chapter 4 "Packaging Material Guide" evaluates the most common packaging formats (4.1 - 4.14). Each of these packaging format encompasses:

1. The Acceptance Overview
2. DfR-Guide

Chapter 4.15 highlights and addresses certain packaging formats, which need to be considered separately due to their special appearance. Chapter 4.16 summarises packaging materials and formats which are not accepted from a recyclability point of view.

3.1 How to read the Acceptance Overview

The foundation for recyclability at scale is a circular packaging design, which is why design for recycling comes first. Recyclability at scale, which considers whether materials are actually recycled in significant volumes through existing systems, comes second and depends on this initial design. The Acceptance Overview outlines whether certain packaging formats (see chapter **4 Packaging Material Guide**) are accepted/not accepted in existing infrastructure in each ALDI Nord and ALDI SOUTH operating country. An explanation of the symbols is provided below:





Insight on country-specific mesh sizes used for screens for fine particle separation. In practice packaging formats are recyclable above the listed mesh size (Impact on recyclability explained in Annex II "Essential technical facts and physical properties that influence recyclability").

INFORMATION: The design for recycling criteria in ALDI's guidelines relies on the availability of packaging infrastructure, such as collection, sorting, and recycling systems. Packaging formats are only deemed recyclable-at-sacle when this infrastructure is in place and design-for-recycling recommendations are properly followed. It should be noted that, in some cases, certain materials may be accepted or preliminarily accepted even if the necessary packaging infrastructure is not currently available.

3.2 How to read the Design for Recycling (DfR) Guide

To develop ALDI's Guidelines for suppliers and purchasing departments, all relevant DfR guidelines and recyclability assessment standards were evaluated. The aim was to achieve **the broadest possible alignment with a harmonised international standard** and to primarily consider the **physical recyclability based on scientifically founded knowledge (DfR Guide)**. However, a separate table has been created that acknowledges country specific DfR specifications and/or deviations.

How to understand the country-specific DfR specifications/ deviations:

	Explanation:
EPR related specifications	Provided where EPR system requirements are stricter or more specific than the DfR guide and/or lead to higher costs
National labelling systems specifications/deviations	Provided where national labelling design specifications dictate a reduction of recyclability and incompatibility for recycling or where national packaging collection systems excludes certain packaging designs
National technological specifications/deviations	Provided where recycling technologies lead towards deviating design specifications causing a reduction of recyclability and incompatibility for recycling

The table uses country flags and numbers to link country-specific DfR element to a DfR feature in the respective DfR Guide.

For example:

2		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged)

Only transparent colouring: clear and light-blue colours are preferred (highest economic value).	2
Opaque PET-bottles are not recycled and are rejected as a waste. In addition to this, opaque bottles are considered in many countries as recycling-disruptive packaging.	1

How to understand the respective Design for Recycling (DfR) Guide:

The classification of the packaging in the DfR-Guide is based on the 3 main groups of packaging components:

- **Body** (including material type, colour, additives and barriers)
- **Closure** (including material type, seals, function closures with special features, if applicable)
- **Decoration** (including labels/sleeves, printing inks, adhesives).

Colour codes showing the degree of recycling compatibility:

The components of a packaging that are suitable for recycling purposes are identified in the Guidelines for each type of packaging as “recyclable components” and differentiated by a green colour coding from other characteristics that are grouped with limited recycling compatibility (amber) or with no recycling compatibility (red).

Key:	Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of Recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility
Explanation:	The material is suitable for high-quality recycling using established recycling processes.	The components, materials or constituents are easily separable during recycling processes or may slightly reduce the quality of recycled material.	The components, materials or constituents are not separable sufficiently in established recycling processes and cause lower quality of recycled material.	The components, materials or constituents are not separable sufficiently and contaminate the recycled materials.

To a certain extent, the Guidelines represent an intersection of the most important DfR standards and recyclability assessments. It should be noted that national procedures concerning the assessment of recyclability may differ.

3.3 Quick overview of packaging features

PACKAGING FEATURES	DESCRIPTION	DOS	DONT'S
 Material	Ideally, the main material type of a packaging determines the recycling path. Packaging should generally be made of mono-materials of the same material type as far as possible. If several materials are used, they should be easily separable from each other in the recycling process.	• use mono materials. • if several materials are used, these should be structured in such a way that on opening they already separate into mono material components by design.	• avoid wet strength papers in fibre-based packs. • From August 12, 2026, packaging that comes into contact with food may not be sold if it contains perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in elevated concentrations.
 Colours	Non-pigmented materials are preferred. The colour of the packaging for plastic could have a direct influence on its sortability (detectability) and sometimes on the economic value of the recycled material produced from it. In any case, for plastics and paper, NIR detectability must be guaranteed.	• use non-pigmented materials. • use NIR-detectable pigments for colouring.	• avoid soot-based pigments "carbon black" (if only used in inner layers, NIR testing is required). More information in ANNEX II • avoid opaque colours for PET-bottles and -containers. • avoid opaque coatings for glass (light transmission must be guaranteed). • avoid colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.
 Barriers/ Coatings	Packaging barriers protect the contents from the penetration and migration of oxygen, water vapour and UV light and are an important functional component.	• choose recycling compatible barrier materials (for more detailed information see DfR-Guide).	• avoid barrier material that risk the recyclability of the main material.
 Adhesives	Adhesives are needed for sealing or to bind several components or layers together, such as multiple film layers or labels on bottles and films. Adhesives should be minimised, labelling adhesives should be easily and completely removable.	• use should be minimised (spot adhesions). • use of material identical In-mould-label (IML) (welded, no adhesive needed). • labelling adhesives should be easily and completely removable in the recycling process.	• avoid full-surface adhesions. • avoid hot-melt adhesives for fibre-based packaging that cannot be separated due to the size and thickness of the application.

 **Sleeves/ Labels**	When using labels and sleeves, make sure that the main body material of the pack is still recognised. When different materials are used, they should be easy to separate from each other in the recycling process.	• use small labels. • make sure that the main body of the material is still recognised. • easy separation must be ensured.	• avoid adhesive paper labels or plastic labels that cannot be removed.
 **Printing/ Inks**	When using printing inks, the EuPIA good manufacturing practice “GMP” must be considered, which assists in controlling food safety hazards in the design and manufacture of inks, varnishes and coatings designed to be printed onto Food Contact Materials. Requirements for direct printing bans and bleeding inks must be observed.	• use of inks should be minimised.	• avoid inks that bleed. • avoid inks containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list. • > 50% fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments should be avoided. • Glass shares with a level of transmission of less than 10% in a 400 nm to 780 nm wave range (due to varnishing or tinting) should be avoided.
 **Additives**	Additives are added to plastics to improve certain material properties or to facilitate processing. Only additives that are compatible with recycling (such as thermal stabilisers, UV stabilisers, antistatic agents, lubricants, pigments, impact modifiers, chemical blowing agents) should be used.	• recycling compatible additives should be used (for more detailed information see DfR-Guide). • the general density must be respected*.	• avoid the use of dense fillers without respecting the overall blend density (see annex II). • avoid bio/oxo/photo-degradable, as well as nano-composite materials.
 **Functional closures**	This includes, for example spray heads, dosing aids, spouts and zippers. If possible, these should be made of the same material as the body of the pack. Components that reduce recyclability or make recycled material unusable must be avoided.	• use same material as the body of the packaging. • where other materials cannot be avoided, the closure should be easily separable and compatible with recycling.	• avoid metals together with PET. • avoid non-separable silicone components.
 **Seals**	Seals are designed to be recyclable, usually in such a way that they can be easily separated from the material of the packaging body; the same applies to security seals.	• to be easily separated. • use same material as the body of the packaging.	

* Impact on recyclability explained in Annex II „Annex Essential technical facts and physical properties that influence recyclability“.

4 Packaging Material Guide

It is not possible to include all packaging formats used in all countries. Thus, the Recyclability Guidelines consider the most common packaging formats:

PET-bottles transparent (clear and light blue) Page 14	Beverage bottles		Non-beverage bottles					
PET-bottles coloured (transparent, other colours & opaque) Page 18	Beverage bottles		Non-beverage bottles					
PET trays Page 22	Trays							
PET others Page 26	Jars		Cups					
PE packages (rigid) Page 30	Bottles		Cups		Pots/trays		Buckets/ canisters jugs	
PP packages (rigid) Page 34	Bottles		Cups		Pots/trays		Buckets/ canisters jugs	
PS packages (rigid) Page 38	Bottles		Cups		Pots/trays		Buckets/ canisters jugs	
PE-based films (flexibles) Page 42	Pouches		Tubes					
PP-based films (flexibles) Page 46	Pouches		Tubes					
Liquid packaging boards Page 50	Liquid packaging boards							

Tinplate Page 54	Cans							
Aluminium Page 58	Cans		Trays		Tubes		Foils	
Paper-based packages Page 62	Folding boxes		Bags/ pouches		Composites			
Glass Page 66	Bottles		Jars					
Highlighted packaging formats Page 70	Coffee capsules		Nets		Oxo-and biodegradable plastics			
Currently not accepted and non-recyclable packaging materials/ formats Page 72	This chapter summarises those packaging formats where there is currently no infrastructure available in any of ALDI's operating countries.							

4.1 PET-bottles transparent (clear & light blue)

Examples:

Beverage bottles 

Non-beverage bottles 

4.1.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI Nord / ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type  	 **The packaging is accepted when, at a minimum, amber-rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).
	From 2024 onwards, the **tethering of the closure** (according to Article 6, 2019/904/EC) must be ensured for the period of intended use for beverage containers up to 3 litres. This applies for countries of the European Union. However, tethered closures should be considered as best practice.



To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.1.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Plastic bottles covered by a sleeve that is of at least 70% consisting of different material than the bottle and is not perforated, is to be banned in the future; the same applies for bottles less than 50cl covered at 50%.
2		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1		Penalties for large non-PET-labels (Exceptions are made for forcibly removable labels or zipper with legend: “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal).
1		Penalties for bottles, flasks and other rigid plastic packaging that cannot be detected by optical sorting containing carbon black.
2		Penalties for PET bottles, dispenser bottles and other rigid packaging that incorporates rigid plastic whose density is >1.
3		Penalties for bottles, dispenser bottles and other rigid packaging combined with aluminium, PVC or silicone with a density >1.
4		Penalties for PET bottles and dispenser bottles with an unperforated PETg, PLA or PS sleeve.
1		The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
1		Crushed dimensions of these packaging types shall not exceed 231 mm in two dimension (PREP).
2		Avoid labels and sleeves that cover more than 40% of surface area (PREP).
1		Avoid non detachable labels/sleeves made out of a different polymer than the bottle that cover more than 40%-60% of the total surface area - 40% being best practice (OPRL).
1		Steel is considered incompatible without differentiation (ferrous/non-ferrous).
2		Paper labels are considered as disruptive and therefore not compatible for recycling.

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PET-bottles transparent (clear & light blue)



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	PET-A is used for the bottle body.	1
Colours	Only transparent colouring: clear and light-blue colours are preferred (highest economic value).	2
	Opaque PET-bottles are not recycled and are rejected as waste. In addition to this, opaque bottles are considered in many countries as recycling-disruptive packaging.	1
Barriers/ Coatings	No barriers are used (common for water and soft drinks).	
	Clear plasma coatings (SiOx, AlOx-Barriers) are compatible for PET-bottle recycling.	
	External coatings and PA-Barrier-Layers show a limited recycling compatibility.	
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are EVOH and PA-Blends.	
Fillers	Only compatible additives, such as clarifiers, are used.	
	UV stabilisers, AA blockers and nano-composites show a limited recycling compatibility.	
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are bio-/oxo-/ photodegradable additives	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Caps materials with a density < 1 g/cm ³ are used: PP, PE-HD.	2 3
	TPE show a limited recycling compatibility.	
	Components of non-ferrous steel, aluminium and silicone (density > 1 g/cm³) cannot be separated by established recycling processes. Bottles with metal components are kept out of the recycling stream. Typically, the whole bottle is removed.	1
Seals	Seals are made from the same material as the caps: PP, PE-HD.	
	The use of silicones with a density < 1 g/cm³ should be avoided.	
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVC, aluminium and silicones (silicones with a density > 1 g/cm³).	
Functional closures	All components of functional closures are made of PP, PE-HD.	2 3
	PE-LD components are compatible for PET-bottle recycling.	
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are glass components, metal springs, ball bearings, valves containing silicone, plastic components with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g. POM).	1

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	No direct printing. Inks on Sleeves and Labels are compatible for recycling, if they follow the EuPIA GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices); compliant for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.	
	Not compatible with recycling are direct printing (date coding is excluded here) as well as inks that bleed, both lead to discolouration.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Unnecessary decorations should be avoided. Labels made of PE-HD, PE-LD, PP, OPP, paper, with less than 70% coverage on face bottles ≥ 0.2 l, or less than 50% coverage on face for bottles < 0.2 l or designed on proof in a way that the bottle polymer can be identified.	1 2 1 1 4 1
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVC and metallised labels, as well as PET-G and PS-labels/ or sleeves.	2
Adhesives	Wash-off adhesives (alkaline) are compatible at temperatures from 60 to 80°C (hot washing).	
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesives not removable in alkaline at 80°C.	

4.2 PET-bottles coloured (transparent, other colours & opaque)

Examples:

Beverage bottles 

Non-beverage bottles 

4.2.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI Nord / ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type  Bottles (coloured transparent)	  **The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the in the Annex (Chapter 9).
Packaging type  Bottles (opaque)	 
	From 2024 onwards, the **tethering of the closure** (according to Article 6, 2019/904/EC) must be ensured for the period of intended use for beverage containers up to 3 litres. This applies for countries of the European Union. However, tethered closures should be considered as best practice.



4.2.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Plastic bottles covered by a sleeve that is of at least 70% consisting of different material than the bottle and is not perforated, is to be banned in the future; the same applies for bottles less than 50cl covered at 50%.
2		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1		Penalties for opaque bottles (except white): mineral filler > 4% in bottles, jars and rigid plastic: 100% (penalised fee).
2		Penalties for use of glass beads in bottles and jars: 50% (penalised fee).
3		Penalties for multimaterial bodies including EVOH ≥ 5%.
4		Penalties for large non-PET-labels (exceptions are made for forcibly removable labels or zipper with legend: “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal).
5		Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product).
1		Penalties for PET bottles and dispenser bottles with an perforated PET-G, PLA or PS sleeve.
2		Penalties for bottles, dispenser bottles and other rigid packaging combined with aluminium, PVC or silicone with a density >1.
1		The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
1		Crushed dimensions of these packaging types shall not exceed 231 mm in two dimension (PREP).
2		Avoid labels and sleeves that cover more than 40% of surface area (PREP).
1		Avoid non detachable labels/sleeves made out of a different polymer than the bottle that cover more than 40%-60% of the total surface area - 40% being best practice (OPRL).
1		Steel is considered incompatibe without differentiation (ferrous/non-ferrous).
2		Paper labels are considered as disruptive and therefore not compatible for recycling.

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PET-bottles transparent (transparent, other colours & opaque)



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	PET-A is used for the bottle body.	1
Colours	Only transparent colouring. Opaque PET-bottles are not recycled and are rejected as waste. In addition to this, opaque bottles are considered as recycling-disruptive packaging in many countries.	2
Barriers/ Coatings	No barriers are used (common for water and soft drinks). Clear plasma coatings (SiOx, AlOx-Barriers) are compatible for PET-bottle recycling. External coatings and PA-Barrier-Layers show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are EVOH and PA-Blends.	3
Fillers	Only compatible additives, such as clarifiers, are used. UV stabilisers, AA blockers and nano-composites show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are bio-/oxo-/ photodegradable additives.	1

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Caps materials with a density < 1 g/cm ³ are used: PP, PE-HD. TPE show a limited recycling compatibility. Components of non-ferrous steel, aluminium and silicone (density > 1 g/cm³) cannot be separated by established recycling processes. Bottles with metal components are kept out of the recycling stream. Typically, the whole bottle is removed.	2 5 1 1
Seals	Seals are made from the same material as the caps: PP, PE-HD. The use of silicones with a density < 1 g/cm³ should be avoided. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVC, aluminium and silicones (silicones with a density > 1 g/cm³).	
Functional closures	All components of functional closures are made of PP, PE-HD. PE-LD components are compatible for PET-bottle recycling. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are glass components, metal springs, ball bearings, valves containing silicone, plastic components with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g. POM).	2 5 1 1

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	No direct printing. Inks on Sleeves and Labels are compatible for recycling, if they follow the EuPIA GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices); compliant for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments whose NIR is not proven. Not compatible with recycling are direct printing (date coding is excluded here) as well as inks that bleed, both lead to discolouration.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Unnecessary decorations should be avoided. Labels made of PE-HD, PE-LD, PP, OPP, paper, with less than 70% coverage on face for bottles ≥ 0.2 l, or less than 50% coverage on face for bottles < 0.2 l or designed on proof in a way that the bottle polymer can be identified. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVC and metallised labels, as well as PET-G- and PS-labels/ or -sleeves.	1 2 4 1 1 2
Adhesives	Wash-off adhesives (alkaline) are compatible at temperatures from 60 to 80°C (hot washing). Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesives not removable in alkaline at 80°C.	

4.3 PET trays

Examples:

Trays 

4.3.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI Nord	ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type	BE ES FR LU NL PL PT DE AT AU CH **UK** HU IE IT SI US CN (Only Shanghai)	
	✓	
	The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated. A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9). ALDI is monitoring the development of recycling infrastructure for this type of packaging. As a key part of the circular economy value chain, ALDI aims to contribute to establishing an efficient and well-functioning recycling stream for these packaging formats.	

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.3.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1		Penalties for opaque and/or coloured trays.
2		Penalties for mineral filler > 4% in bottles, jars and rigid plastic: 100% (penalised fee).
3		Penalties for large non-PET-labels (exceptions are made for forcibly removable labels or zipper with legend: “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal).
4		Penalties for PE layers in trays: 50% (penalised fee).
5		Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product).
1		The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
1		Crushed dimensions of these packaging types shall not exceed 231 mm in two dimension (PREP).
2		Avoid labels and sleeves that cover more than 40% of surface area (PREP).
3		Avoid opaque PET. Avoid any detectable black pigments (PREP).
4		All lidding films on PET trays/cups are deemed separate/standalone component (PREP). Therefore the component must be designed in accordance to the Design Guide of the corresponding Packaging Material Guide.
5		Avoid PE sealing layers (PREP).
1		Paper labels are considered as disruptive and therefore not compatible for recycling.

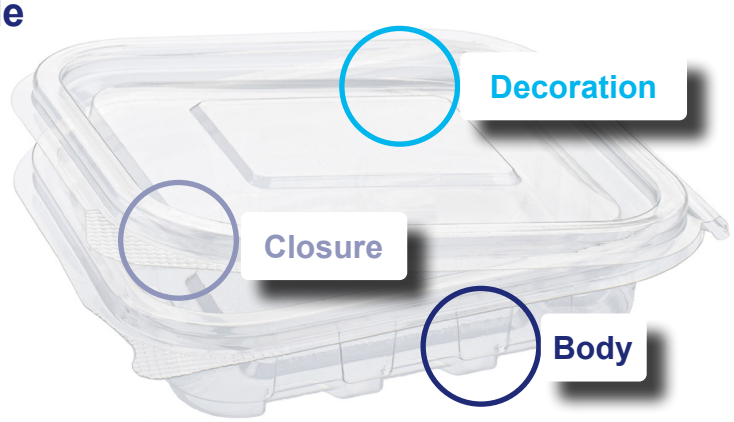
Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PET trays



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY *(without lidding film)*		**Country specifics**
Material	PET-A, PET-C or PEF is used for the packaging body or for snap-on lids. PE-Sealing-Layer. All layers made of other polymers, like EVOH, PA, etc.	4 1 5
Colours	Transparent colouring: clear colours are preferred (highest economic value). Opaque, coloured trays without carbon black. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided is carbon black (non-NIR sortable).	1 1 3
Barriers/ Coatings	No barriers are used. Clear plasma coatings (SiOx, AlOx-Barriers) are compatible for PET recycling. PE-Sealing-Layers show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are all layers made of other polymers, like EVOH, PA, etc., PA-Blends, non-washable silicone coatings.	
Fillers	Only compatible additives, such as clarifiers, slipping agents, are used. UV stabilisers, oxyven scavenger and AA blocker show a limited recycling compatibility.	2

CLOSURE *(for rigid cover and sealing/lidding film)*		Country specifics
Material	For rigid closure/cover: PET-A or PET-C, if comparable wall thicknesses, such as bottom film/tray, unprinted. If instead of or in addition to a rigid closure, a sealing/lidding film is used, see next section (Seals).	5
Seals	Unprinted Mono-PET films (if applied on a PET tray). Sealing films / Lidding films are made of mono- or multilayer films (density < 1 g/cm³). The sealing edge must either remain on the lidding film, be washable or compatible with the body material. Peel structures tested for recycling compatibility are used. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are all sealing films with a density > 1 g/cm³ made of other polymers, like EVOH, PET-G, PVC, PVDC, PA, etc., aluminium. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are printed sealing/lidding films (with a density > 1g/cm³; like printed metalized PET lids) PVC, aluminium.	4
Functional closures	Not relevant.	

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	No direct printing. Inks on Sleeves and Labels are compatible for recycling, if they follow the EuPIA GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices); compliant for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. Not compatible with recycling are direct printing (date coding is excluded here) and lacquers.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Unnecessary decorations should be avoided. Labels made of polymers with density < 1 g/cm³ (including ink), like PE-HD, PE-LD, PP, OPP, paper, with less than 70% coverage on face or designed on proof in a way that the packaging body can be identified. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are all labels with density > 1 g/cm³ (incl. ink), like PVC labels, as well as printed PET labels.	3 2 1 1
Adhesives	Wash-off adhesives (alkaline) are compatible at temperatures from 80°C (hot washing). Absorbent pads are easily separable, leaving no adhesive residues on PET. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesives not removable in alkaline at 80°C. This also applies to the bonding of suction inserts in trays.	

4.4 PET others

Examples:

Jars 

Cups 

4.4.1 Acceptance overview

Packaging type	ALDI Nord	ALDI SOUTH
 	✓	**The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9). The respective recycling infrastructure for this packaging type is currently not implemented in every country. However, ALDI has observed substantial developments on the implementation of these packaging types in its operating markets. As an important part of the circular economy value chain, ALDI wants to contribute to build up a well functioning recycling stream of these packaging formats.

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.4.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1		Penalties for mineral filler > 4% in bottles, jars and rigid plastic: 100% (penalised fee).
2		Penalties for large non-PET-labels (exceptions are made for forcibly removable labels or zipper with legend: “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal).
3		Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product).
1		The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
1		Crushed dimensions of these packaging types shall not exceed 231 mm in two dimension (PREP).
2		Avoid labels and sleeves that cover more than 40% of surface area (PREP).
3		Avoid opaque PET. Avoid any detectable black pigments (PREP).
4		All lidding films on PET trays/cups are deemed separate/standalone component (PREP). Therefore the component must be designed in accordance to the Design Guide of the corresponding Packaging Material Guide.
5		Avoid PE sealing layers (PREP).
1		Paper labels are considered as disruptive and therefore not compatible for recycling.

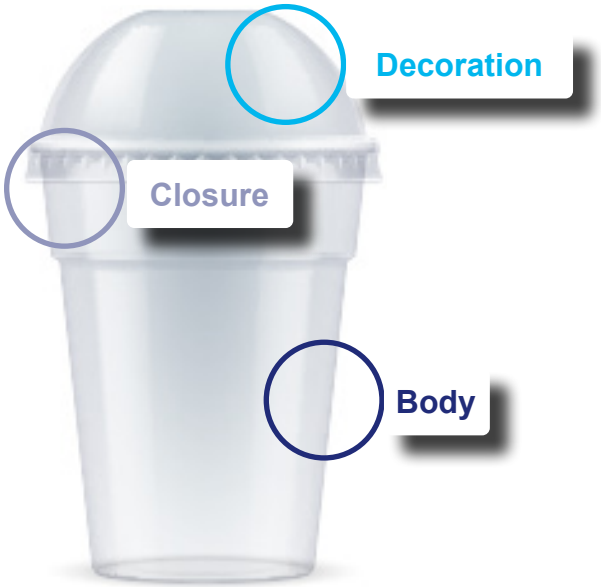
Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PET others



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY *(without lidding film)*		**Country specifics**
Material	PET-A or PET-C is used for the packaging body or for snap-on lids. PE-Sealing-Layer.	1 5
Colours	Only transparent colouring: clear and light-blue colours are preferred (highest economic value). Only carbon-black free masterbatches are used. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided is carbon black (non-NIR sortable).	1 3
Barriers/ Coatings	No barriers are used. Clear plasma coatings (SiOx, AlOx-Barriers) are compatible for PET recycling. External coatings, PA-Barrier-Layers, PE-Sealing-Layers show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are EVOH and PA-Blends.	
Fillers	Only compatible additives, such as clarifiers, are used. UV stabilisers, Nanocomposites and oxyven scavenger show a limited recycling compatibility.	1

CLOSURE *(for rigid cover and sealing/lidding film)*		Country specifics
Material	For rigid closure/cover: PET-A or PET-C, if comparable wall thicknesses, such as bottom film/tray, unprinted. TPE show a limited recycling compatibility. Components of non-ferrous steel, aluminium and silicone (density > 1 g/cm³) cannot be separated by established recycling processes. *If instead of or in addition to a rigid closure, a sealing/lidding film is used, see next section (Seals).*	3
Seals	Sealing films / Lidding films are made of mono- or multilayer films (density < 1 g/cm³). The sealing edge must either remain on the lidding film, be washable or compatible with the body material. Unprinted Mono-PET films (if applied on a PET packaging). Peel structures tested for recycling compatibility are used. The use of silicones with a density of < 1 g/cm³should be avoided. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are printed sealing/lidding films (with a density > 1g/cm³; like printed metalized PET lids) PVC, aluminium and silicones (silicones with a density > 1 g/cm³).	4
Functional closures	PE-LD components are compatible for PET-packaging recycling. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are glass components, metal springs, ball bearings, valves containing silicone, plastic components with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g. POM).	3

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	No direct printing. Inks on Sleeves and Labels are compatible for recycling, if they follow the EuPIA GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices); compliant for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments whose NIR is not proven. Not compatible with recycling are direct printing (date coding is excluded here) as well as inks that bleed, both lead to discolouration.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Unnecessary decorations should be avoided. Labels made of PE-HD, PE-LD, PP, OPP, paper, with less than 70% coverage on face **or** designed on proof in a way that the packaging body can be identified. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVC and metallised labels, as well as PET labels.	2 2 1 1
Adhesives	Wash-off adhesives (alkaline) are compatible at temperatures from 60 to 80°C (hot washing). Absorbent pads are easily separable, leaving no adhesive residues on PET. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesives not removable in alkaline at 80°C. This also applies to the bonding of suction inserts in trays.	

4.5 PE packaging (rigid)

Examples:

Bottles 

Cups 

Pots/ trays 

Buckets/ canisters/ jugs 

4.5.1 Acceptance overview

Packaging type	ALDI Nord	ALDI SOUTH
   	✓	**The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.5.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		For plastic cans with a metal bottom or a metal top a dissuasive rate applies and the highest fee must be paid.
2		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1		Penalties for black colour (with carbon black): 50% (penalised fee).
2		Penalties for PE or PP with density > 1 g/cm³: 10% (penalised fee).
3		Penalties for multimaterial bodies including EVOH ≥ 5%.
4		Penalties for non-PE-labels (exceptions are made for forcibly removable labels or zipper with legend: “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal).
5		Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product).
1		Penalties for bottles and dispenser bottles that are undetectable by optical sorting.
1		The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
1		Crushed dimensions of these packaging types shall not exceed 231 mm in two dimension (PREP).
2		Avoid labels and sleeves that cover more than 40% of surface area (PREP).
3		Avoid opaque PET. Avoid any detectable black pigments (PREP).
1		Removable/Peelable lidding films on PET trays/cups are deemed separate/standalone component (OPRL). Therefore the component must be designed in accordance to the Design Guide of the corresponding packaging material guide.
1		Paper labels are considered as disruptive and therefore not compatible for recycling.

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PE packaging (rigid)

Note: There is no limit value for differentiating between flexible and rigid as the actual classification into a fraction depends on the behaviour of the packaging. As semi-rigid packaging behaves diffusely in the separation process (sorting), classification via flexibles (i.e., according to the stricter criteria) in this guide is generally recommended.



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	PE-HD is used for the bottle body.	1 2
	PE/PP blends and PE/PP copolymer are compatible for recycling.	1
Colours	Colours are minimised and are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Only carbon-black free masterbatches are used (PE is commonly coloured and markets for coloured material.	2 1
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list, as well as carbon black (non-NIR sortable).	3 1
Barriers/ Coatings	No barriers are used.	
	Clear plasma coatings (SiOx-Barriers) are compatible for PE-bottle recycling.	
	EVOH-Barrier-Layers show a limited recycling compatibility.	3
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVDC and PA, as well as oxo-degradable additives.	
Fillers	Only compatible additives (thermal stabilisers, UV stabilisers, antistatic agents, lubricants, pigments, impact modifiers, chemical blowing agents) are used.	
	Mineral fillers, such as Talc, CaCO3 and TiO2, are compatible for PE recycling, if an overall blend density is of < 1 g/cm³ is given.	
	UV stabilisers and Nanocomposites show a limited recycling compatibility.	
	Not recyclable and strictly to be avoided is the use of dense fillers without respecting the overall blend density (change to > 1 g /cm³).	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Polymer identical caps with a density < 1 g/cm ³ are used: PE-HD, PE-MD. Silicone, PS, thermoset plastics, nylon, PVC (prerequisite: d > 1 g/cm³), steel and aluminium are compatible for PE-bottle recycling. PP and PE-LD show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are silicones and non-PO-based plastics with a density < 1 g/cm³.	5
Seals	Seals and Liners are made from the same material as the caps: PE-HD. Liners made of PE-LD, composites of aluminium and paper, EVA, PP and TPE show a limited recycling compatibility, as well as seals made of PP, OPP, PE-LD and silicones with a density > 1 g/cm³. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVC, silicones and components of foamed non-thermoplastic elastomers.	
Functional closures	Additional components, such as lidding films and snap on lids, are made of PE-HD, PE-MD. Silicone valves in spray dispensers or pumps with a density > 1 g/cm³ and metal components are compatible for PE-bottle recycling. PP and PE-LD show a limited recycling compatibility.	5 1

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	Direct printing shows a limited recycling compatibility, nevertheless EuPIA GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) must be considered. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments whose NIR is not proven. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are inks that bleed.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Labels or IML (In-mould-labels) made of PE-HD, PE-LD and PE-LLD. Unnecessary decorations should be avoided. Labels and sleeves made of PP, OPP, PS as well as paper (for labels) and PET-G (for sleeves), with less than 70% coverage on face or designed on proof in a way that the bottle polymer can be identified. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are paper-based labels or PVC-labels that cannot be removed via cold-wash, as well as PET-Sleeves with a density < 1 g/cm³.	4 2 1 1
Adhesives	Water-soluble adhesive applications are used. Its use is minimised and the removability respected. All other adhesives show a limited recycling compatibility.	

4.6 PP packaging (rigid)

Examples:

Bottles 

Cups 

Pots/ trays 

Buckets/ canisters/ jugs 

4.6.1 Acceptance overview

Packaging type	ALDI Nord	ALDI SOUTH
   	✓	✓

The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated. A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).

The respective recycling infrastructure for this packaging type is mostly implemented in every country. In addition, there are already existing technical recycling processes in scale & practice.

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.6.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1	For plastic cans with a metal bottom or a metal top a dissuasive rate applies and the highest fee must be paid.
2	Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1	Penalties for black colour (with carbon black): 50% (penalised fee).
2	Penalties for PE or PP with density > 1 g/cm³: 10% (penalised fee).
3	Penalties for multimaterial bodies including EVOH ≥ 5%.
4	Penalties for non-PP-Labels (unless forcibly removable or zipper with legend: “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal).
5	Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product).
1	Penalties for rigid plastic packaging that is undetectable by optical sorting.
1	The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
1	Crushed dimensions of these packaging types shall not exceed 231 mm in two dimension (PREP).
2	Avoid labels and sleeves that cover more than 40% of surface area (PREP).
3	Avoid opaque PE. Avoid any detectable black pigments (PREP).
1	Avoid pumps with metal and glass parts (OPRL).

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PP packaging (rigid)

Note: There is no limit value for differentiating between flexible and rigid as the actual classification into a fraction depends on the behaviour of the packaging. As semi-rigid packaging behaves diffusely in the separation process (sorting), classification via flexibles (i.e., according to the stricter criteria) in this guide is generally recommended.



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	PP is used for the body.	
	PP/PE blends and PP/PE copolymer are compatible for recycling.	1 2
	Polymers of density < 1 g/cm³ in low concentration (EVA, TPE (PO-based)) cause a limited recycling compatibility.	1
	Not compatible with recycling are non-PO-plastics with a density < 1.0 g/cm³.	
Colours	Colours are minimised and are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Only carbon-black free masterbatches are used (PP is commonly coloured and markets for coloured material exists).	2 1
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list, as well as carbon black (non-NIR sortable).	3 1
Barriers/ Coatings	Mono-layer material (PP) and no barriers are used.	
	EVOH barrier layers are compatible for recycling.	3
	Acrylic-based coatings cause a limited recycling compatibility	
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PVDC- and PA-layers.	
Fillers	Only compatible additives (thermal stabilisers, UV stabilisers, antistatic agents, lubricants, pigments, impact modifiers, chemical blowing agents) are used.	
	Mineral fillers, such as Talc, CaCO3 and TiO2, are compatible for PP recycling, if an overall blend density is respected.	
	UV stabilisers and nanocomposites cause a limited recycling compatibility.	
	Not at all recyclable and strictly to be avoided is the use of dense fillers without respecting the overall blend density (>1 g/cm³).	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Same polymer closure type: lids or caps are made of PP. PP/PE blends and PP/PE copolymer are compatible for recycling. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are components of non-separable silicone (floating silicone), as well as foamed non-thermoplastic elastomers.	5
Seals	Seal is made from the same polymer type as the body (PP). PE-HD, PE-MD seals are compatible for recycling. Sealing films / Lidding films are made of mono-or multilayer films (density > 1 g /cm³), e.g., aluminium plates, PS, silicone, nylon, PET-G, PA, PLA. The sealing edge must either remain on the lidding film.	
Functional closures	Addition components, such as lidding films or slip-on lids, are made of the same material type as the body (PP). Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are non-separable silicon components (valves in spray dispensers or pumps can be made of silicone).	5 1

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	Inks should be avoided as far as possible. Optimised quantity of used inks, non-toxic inks, that are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list, as well as laser marked printing. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments whose NIR is not proven. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are inks containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list, as well as bleeding inks.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Labels or IML are made of PP (the lack of adhesives has a positive effect on recycling). PE/PO Labels or IML made of PE or paper respect a coverage on face of less than 70%. PE/PP label with density > 0.95 g/cm³, cups with cardboard wrappers in conventional design show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PET sleeves with density < 1 g/cm³. Full paper wrappers are not compatible when detection of polymer material underneath is not guaranteed.	4 2 1
Adhesives	Water-soluble adhesive applications are used. Its use is minimised and the removability respected. Absorbent pads in trays/bowls must be completely removable with density > 1 g/cm³ or made of compatible polymers (PP). Bonding agents cause a limited recycling compatibility depending on polymer structure. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are non-water-soluble adhesive applications in combination with wet-strength labels.	

4.7 PS packaging (rigid)

Examples:

Bottles 

Cups 

Trays/ shells 

Buckets/ canisters/ jugs 

4.7.1 Acceptance overview

Packaging type	ALDI Nord									ALDI SOUTH								
																		Only Shanghai
	✓	✗	~	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	~	✗	~	✗	~	~	✗	✗









The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated. A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).

ALDI's acceptance criteria of using PS packaging is currently very fragmanted in the ALDI operating countries, since the recycling infrastructure is very diverse.

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.7.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
2		For plastic cans with a metal bottom or a metal top a dissuasive rate applies and the highest fee must be paid.
1		Penalties for black colour (with carbon black).
2		Penalties for multimaterial bodies including EVOH ≥ 5%.
3		Penalties for non-PS-Labels (unless forcibly removable or zipper with legend: “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal).
4		Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product)..
1		The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PS packaging (rigid)



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	PS is used for the body. Not compatible with recycling are multilayer-cups with a density from 1.0 to 1.08g/cm³.	2
Colours	Colours are minimised and are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Only carbon-black free masterbatches are used. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list, as well as carbon black.	1 1
Barriers/ Coatings	Mono-layer material (PS) and no barriers are used. EVOH and PA barrier layers are compatible for recycling.	2
Fillers	Only compatible additives (thermal stabilisers, UV stabilisers, antistatic agents, lubricants, pigments, impact modifiers, chemical blowing agents) are used. Mineral fillers, such as Talc, $CaCO_3$ and TiO_2, are compatible for PS recycling, if an overall blend density is respected. UV stabilisers and nanocomposites show a limited recycling compatibility. Not recyclable and strictly to be avoided is the use of dense fillers without respecting the overall blend density (changes in the range from 1.0 to 1.08 g/cm³).	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
 Material	Closures are minimised and made of PO (PE, PP) without liners to respect the floatability. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are plastics with a density range from 1.0 to 1.08 g/cm³.	4
 Seals	Seal is made from the same polymer type as the body (PS). OPS, PBT/PS, OPE, OPP Aluminium seals or mixed paper seals with a density < 1 or > 1.08 g/cm³ are compatible for recycling. Metallised OPET seals show a limited recycling compatibility. PET multilayer and mixed paper all with a density of 1 to 1.08 g/cm³.	2
 Functional closures	Additional components, such as lidding films or slip-on lids, are made of the same material type as the body (OPS).	4

DECORATION		Country specifics
 Printing/ Inks	Inks should be avoided as far as possible. Optimised quantity of used inks, non-toxic inks, that are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list, as well as laser marked printing. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments whose NIR is not proven. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are inks containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	
 Sleeves/ Labels	Labels are made of PS/OPS. No cardboard-wrappers are used. Labels or IML made of PE/PP/OPP or paper respect a coverage on face of less than 70%. PE/PP label with densities > 0.95 g/cm³, cups with cardboard wrappers in conventional design show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PET Sleeves with density < 1 g/cm³. Full paper wrappers are not compatible when detection of polymer material underneath is not guaranteed.	3 1
 Adhesives	Water-soluble adhesive applications are used. It's use is minimised and the removability respected. Absorbent pads in trays/bowls must be completely removable, without leaving adhesive residues on PS. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are non-water-soluble adhesive applications in combination with wet-strength labels.	

4.8 PE-based films, pouches (flexibles)

Examples:

Films/ pouches 

Tubes 

4.8.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI Nord											ALDI SOUTH						
Packaging type																		Only Shanghai
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 	**The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).																	

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.8.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1		Penalties for black colour (with carbon black).
2		Penalties for multimaterial bodies including EVOH ≥ 5%.
3		Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product).
1		The minimum standard 2025 defines inks based on nitrocellulose and used in adhesive side printing as non-recyclable.
2		According to the minimum standard 2025, PA-layer, coextruded, with tie-layer can be conditionally compatible under the following circumstances: • Polyamide 6 or co-polyamide 6-66 in coextruded PE/PA films (with or without EVOH), combined with MAH-grafted PE as an adhesion promoter at a ratio of at least 0.5 g of adhesive per 1 g of PA (+EVOH). • Polyamide 6 in laminated PE/PA films, combined with MAH-grafted PE as a compatibiliser at a ratio of at least 0.15 g of compatibiliser per 1 g of PA.
3		The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
4		The minimum standard 2025 differentiates between PE-X (≤ 50 kGy) as a valuable material and PE-X (> 50 kGy) as incompatibilities.
1		To be considered monomaterial/recyclable use min. 80% PE for tubes and films (PREP).
2		Coating not to exceed 10% (EVOH, PVOH, Nylon, AlOx, SiOx) of total component weight (PREP).
3		Avoid any paper or PET labels (PREP).
4		RECYCLABLE WITH REDUCED VALUE: Rigid valves, lids and spouts must be PP or HDPE (APCO)
1		For flexibles only use min. 90% PE with no more than 5% of PP and 5% EVOH, PVOH, AlOx, SiOx and Acrylic (Repak).
2		Use metallisation with no more than 0.1 micron applied by vacuum or vapour deposition to the inside of the pac (OPRL).
1		Paper is considered detrimental to recycling.

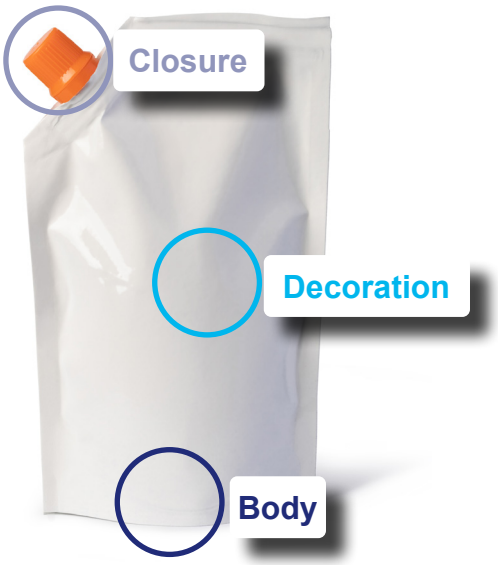
Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PE-based films, pouches (flexibles)



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	PE-LD, PE-LLD, PE-HD, PE-BD (F) is used as body material. PP, EVA, as well as bounding agents show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PA, PE-X-Components, PET and PLA in multilayer structures. Attention: PP should be avoided in films to be recycled in blown-film-applications.	1 1 4
Colours	Colour masterbatches without carbon black pigments are used. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are dark colours using carbon black pigments (if only used in inner layer: testing is required).	1 1
Barriers/ Coatings	No barriers are used. Metallisation, EVOH with tie layer, coatings of SiOx/AlOx are compatible for recycling. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PA (adhesive laminated films without the addition of compatibilizers), PVDC-, PVC-, PVOH-, aluminium film-layer, as well as non-polymer-barriers (except SiOx/AlOx/metallisation).	2 2 2 2 4
Fillers	Only compatible additives (thermal stabilisers, UV stabilisers, antistatic agents, lubricants, pigments, impact modifiers, chemical blowing agents) are used. Mineral fillers, such as Talc, CaCO3 and TiO2, are compatible for PE recycling, if an overall blend density is of < 1 g/cm³ is given. Also compatible is foamed PE (gas, blowing agents). Not recyclable and strictly to be avoided is the use of dense fillers without respecting the overall blend density (change to > 1 g /cm³); as well as bio/oxo/photo-degradable and nanocomposite materials.	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Polymer identical caps with a density < 1 g/cm³ are used: PE-HD, PE-MD, PE-LD. Non-PO plastics are compatible recycling. PP shows a limited recycling compatibility in PE-LD recycling processes. Attention: PP should be strictly avoided in films to be recycled in blown film applications.	3
Seals	Seals with a density < 1 g/cm³ are used: PE-HD, PE-MD, PE-LD.	
Functional closures	All components of functional closures are made of PE-HD, PE-MD or PE-LD. PP shows a limited recycling compatibility in PE-LD recycling processes. Attention: PP should be strictly avoided in films to be recycled in blown film applications.	4

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	Direct printing is compatible for recycling. EuPIA GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) must be respected. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments whose NIR is not proven. Not compatible with recycling are inks those bleeds.	1
Sleeves/ Labels	Unnecessary decorations should be avoided. Labels made of PE-HD, PE-MD or PE-LD are compatible for recycling. Paper labels are compatible for recycling. PP labels show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesive paper labels and plastic labels (density > 1 g/cm³) that cannot be removed under cold wash-off conditions (40°C), metal film labels.	3 3 1
Adhesives	For multilayer films, tie-layers are usually compatible. Cross-linking laminating adhesives (acrylates, PU) should be avoided as far as possible. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesive paper labels and plastic labels (density > 1 g/cm³) that cannot be removed under cold wash-off conditions (40°C).	

4.9 PP-based films, pouches (flexibles)

Examples:

Films/ pouches 

Tubes 

4.9.1 Acceptance overview

Packaging type	ALDI Nord								ALDI SOUTH									
																		Only Shanghai
 	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	✓	✓	~	~	✓	~	~	✓	~	~	~

The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated. A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).

Collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure for this packaging type is not yet implemented in every ALDI operating country. However, PP flexible packaging show unique protective properties for our products and the substitution would rather lead to environmentally inferior alternatives.

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

4.9.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1	Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black is considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1	Penalties for black colour (with carbon black).
2	Penalties for multimaterial bodies including EVOH ≥ 5%.
3	Penalties for PVC, rubber, silicone or metal accessories (if they are not forcibly removable or contain a legend that they must be removed to consume the product).
1	The minimum standard 2025 requires the testing of identifiability in sensor-based sorting by measurement of large labels (> 50% of projected surface) made from foreign materials.
1	To be considered monomaterial/recyclable use min. 80% PP for tubes and films (PREP).
2	Coating not to exceed 10% (EVOH, PVOH, Nylon, AlOx, SiOx) of total component weight (PREP).
3	Avoid any paper or PET labels (PREP).
4	RECYCLABLE WITH REDUCED VALUE: Rigid valves, lids and spouts must be PP or HDPE (APCO).
1	For flexibles only use min. 90% PP with no more than 5% of PE and 5% EVOH, PVOH, AlOx, SiOx and Acrylic (Repak).
2	Use metallisation with no more than 0.1 micron applied by vacuum or vapour deposition to the inside of the pac (OPRL).

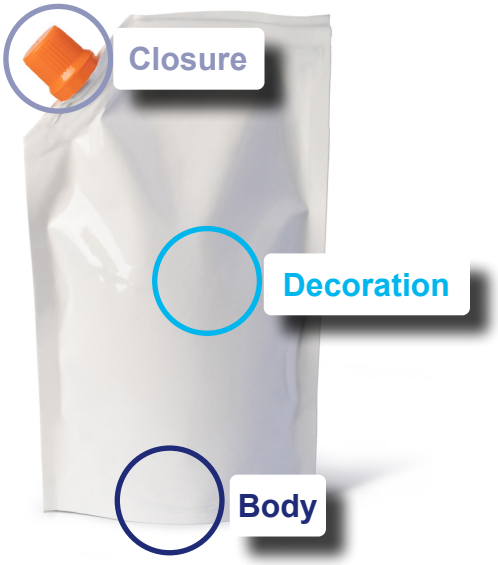
Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

Design-for-Recycling Guide for PP-based films, pouches (flexibles)



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	PP is used as body material.	
	Different PP types (OPP, BOPP) can be used. PE-HD, PE-MD is compatible for recycling; nevertheless shares should be kept as low as possible.	1
	PE-LD, EVA, as well as bounding agents show a limited recycling compatibility.	1
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PA, PET and PLA in multilayer structures.	
Colours	Colour masterbatches without carbon black pigments are used.	1
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are dark colours using carbon black pigments (if only used in inner layer: testing is required).	1
Barriers/ Coatings	No barriers are used.	
	Metallisation, EVOH with tie layer, coatings of SiOx/AlOx are compatible for recycling.	2 2
	PP-based acrylate used in the area of coating thicknesses is conditionally compatible.	2
	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are PA-, PVDC, PVC-, PVOH-, aluminium film-layer, as well as non-polymer-barriers (except SiOx/AlOx/metallisation).	

Fillers	Only compatible additives (thermal stabilisers, UV stabilisers, antistatic agents, lubricants, pigments, impact modifiers, chemical blowing agents) are used. Mineral fillers, such as Talc, CaCO3 and TiO2, are compatible for PP recycling, if an overall blend density is of < 0.995 g/cm³ is given. Also compatible is foamed PP (gas, blowing agents). Not recyclable and strictly to be avoided is the use of dense fillers without respecting the overall blend density (change to > 0.995 g/cm³); as well as bio/oxo/photo-degradable and nanocomposite materials.	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Polymer identical caps with a density < 0.995 g/cm ³ of PP are used. Other PO-Types, such as PE-HD and PE-MD, are compatible for recycling. PE-LD causes a limited recycling compatibility in PP recycling processes.	3
Seals	Seals of PP with a density < 0.995 g/cm³ are used.	
Functional closures	All components of functional closures are made of PP. Other PO-Types, such as PE-HD and PE-MD, are compatible for recycling. PE-LD shows a limited recycling compatibility in PP recycling processes. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are non-separable silicon components or foamed foreign polymers with a density < 0.995 g/cm³.	3 4

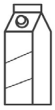
DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	Direct printing is compatible for recycling. EuPIA GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) must be respected. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments whose NIR is not proven. Not compatible with recycling are inks those bleeds.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Unnecessary decorations should be avoided. Labels made of PP are compatible for recycling. PE-HD- and PE-MD-labels, as well as paper labels are compatible for recycling. PE-LD labels show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesive paper labels and plastic labels (density > 1 g/cm³) that cannot be removed under cold wash-off conditions (40°C), metal film labels.	3 1
Adhesives	For multilayer films, tie-layers are usually compatible. Cross-linking laminating adhesives (acrylates, PU) should be avoided as far as possible. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are adhesive paper labels and plastic labels (density > 1 g/cm³), where adhesives cannot be removed under cold wash-off conditions (40 °C).	

4.10 Liquid packaging boards

Examples:

Liquid boards 

4.10.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI Nord	ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type		
	✓	
	**The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).	
	From 2024 onwards, the **tethering of the closure** (according to Article 6, 2019/904/EC) must be ensured for the period of intended use for beverage containers up to 3 litres. This applies for countries of the European Union. However, tethered closures should be considered as best practice. EU 2021 (SUP): **Plastic straws** may no longer be placed on the market. The repulpability of **paper straws** should be confirmed.	

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

Design-for-Recycling Guide for liquid packaging boards



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	Body is made from PE/cardboard or PE/cardboard/aluminium. Not compatible with recycling are wet strength papers with limited pulpability.	
Colours	Colours are minimised and are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Redispersing water-soluble printing inks, adhesives and varnishes show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	
Barriers/ Coatings	Double-side plastics designed for the processing of composite beverage cartons are used. Fibre and non-fibre materials are easily separable. Polymer dispersion coatings show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling are additional external coatings, such as metallised PET films.	

Fillers	No additives are used. Only chemicals are used that do not interfere with the recycling process, such as mineral fillers (kaolin, talcum, titanium dioxide (white pigment). Nevertheless, the fibre yield will be reduced. Bulking agents show a limited recycling compatibility. Wet strength agents, if fibre recovery is not given, are not compatible. Water soluble substances causing the release of micro plastics via the process water.	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Poly-Al compatible plastic closures (PE-HD/PP) are used. Non-paper components are minimised and easy to separate from the fibrous material. Not recyclable and strictly to be avoided are oxo-degradable plastics (applies for closures, straw and straw packaging).	
Seals	Non-paper components are minimised and easy to separate from the fibrous material.	
Functional closures	Functional closures, such as dosing aids, are made of Poly-Al compatible (PE-HD/PP) material.	

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	Inks should be avoided as far as possible. Optimised quantity of used inks, non-toxic inks, that are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. UV inks show a limited recycling compatibility in PolyAl recycling processes. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are inks containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Recycling compatible labels (plastic labels) are used.	
Adhesives	Quantity of adhesives is minimised and the removability is respected. Self-adhesive labels and adhesives leading to stickies show a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are water-insoluble or non-redispersing adhesive applications where it has not been specifically proven that they can be removed.	

A testing method suitable for proofing the removability of adhesive applications is PTS-RH 021/97, or INGEDE Method 12 adjusted for packaging. The exceptions granted for hotmelt adhesives in the EPRC Scorecard: (softening temperature of thermoplastic adhesives (according to R&B): ≥ 68°C, layer thickness (non-reactive adhesives): ≥ 120 µm, layer thickness (reactive adhesives): ≥ 60 µm, horizontal dimension of the adhesive application (in either direction): ≥ 1.6 mm).

4.11 Tinplate cans

Examples:

Tinplate cans 

4.11.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI Nord	ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type	BE, ES, FR, LU, NL, PL, PT, DE, AT, AU, CH, UK, HU, IE, IT, SI, US, CN (Only Shanghai)	
	✓	
	The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated. A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).	

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

Design-for-Recycling Guide for tinplate cans



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	Tinplate (mono layer material) is used for the body.	
Colours	Protective coatings are minimised and, like conventional coatings, are also suitable for metal recycling. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list, as well as carbon black.	
Barriers/ Coatings	Mono-layer material (Tinplate) is used.	
Fillers	Not relevant.	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
 Material	Closures are made of tinplates. Plastic components (closures and valve caps) are minimised and easy to separate from the metal body.	
 Seals	Not relevant.	
 Functional closures	Plastic components (closures and valve caps) cause a limited recycling compatibility.	

DECORATION		Country specifics
 Printing/ Inks	Inks are avoided as far as possible. Optimised quantity of used inks, non-toxic inks, that are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are inks containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	
 Sleeves/ Labels	Unnecessary decorations are avoided. Paper or plastic labels or paper or plastic banderoles are used.	
 Adhesives	Not relevant.	

4.12 Aluminium packaging

Examples:

Cans 

Trays/ shells 

Tubes (all aluminium tubes) 

Foils 

4.12.1 3.12.1 Acceptance overview

Packaging type	ALDI Nord / ALDI SOUTH
   	 **The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

3.12.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Only considered aluminium if thickness > 50 µm.

Design-for-Recycling Guide for aluminium packaging



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	Aluminium (mono layer material) is used for the body. Aluminium-composites show a limited recycling compatibility and should be avoided.	1
Colours	Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	
Barriers/ Coatings	Mono-layer material (Aluminium) with minimisation of lacquer layers. Protective coatings are minimised and as conventional lacquer finishes compatible for recycling.	
Fillers	Not relevant.	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Closures are made of aluminium. Plastic components (closures and valve caps) are minimised and easy to separate from the metal body.	
Seals	Safety seal is made from the same material as the body. For tubes: Safety seal is designed to be pierced through the closure (no removable seal).	
Functional closures	Plastic components (closures and valve caps) cause a limited recycling compatibility. Foreign objects such as “widget” nitrogen balls or valve caps should be avoided.	

Aerosol aluminium cans should generally be easy to empty of residues, as residues of highly flammable liquids pose a problem in sorting and recycling processes.
Due to the above-mentioned safety issues, aerosol cans are excluded from recycling in some countries.

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	Inks should be avoided as far as possible. Optimised quantity of used inks, non-toxic inks, that are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are inks containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	
Sleeves/ Labels	No labels are used, embossed decorations are preferred. Paper or plastic labels are recycling compatible. The proportion of foreign materials (non-aluminium) should be kept below 5%.	
Adhesives	Not relevant.	

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

4.13 Paper-based packaging: folding boxes bags, pouches, composites

Examples:

Paper/ cardboard 

Paper/ cardboard coated 

4.13.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI NORD	ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type		
Paper/ Cardboard	✓	**The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).
Packaging type		
Paper/ Cardboard coated	✓ ✓ ✓ ~ ✓ ~ ~ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✗ ✓ ~ ~ ~ ~ ✓ ~	**The packaging is accepted, when minimum amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated.** A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in "„Annex".
	The share of materials within a composite packaging can have direct impact on the calculation of licensing fees. An overview of classifications of such material thresholds are provided in Chapter 5. Please be aware that those thresholds do not affect the technical recyclability of composite packaging per se.	

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

4.13.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Laminated cardboard packaging, such as crisps and dried milk tubes or boxes that contain less than 85% paper fibre, are considered as obstructive packaging and will be banned in the future.
2		Penalties for paper bags laminated with aluminium inside for powdered soups and sauces are considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
3		In Belgium laminated cardboard packaging containing less than 85% fibers are considered as obstructive packaging (higher fees are charged).
1		Penalties for composite packaging with paper board <85% (exception for packaging which can be separated by hand or include the legend “separate me” or any other equivalent that promotes separation).
2		Penalties for cardboard reinforced with materials other than paper and board based materials: 50% (penalised fee).
3		Penalties for printing with inks containing more than 1% by mass of mineral oils (MOSH and MOAH): 20% (penalised fee), progressively increasing to 50% within three years. This penalty shall apply only to the weight of the paperboard.
1		Penalties applied to boxes where 100% of the surface area of all sides is covered with metallic material.
1		Testing of identifiability and separability in sensor-based sorting by measurement required for fibre-based composite > 50% fully printed black (including background) using soot-carbon-based pigments.*
2		Testing of identifiability and separability in sensor-based sorting by measurement required for metal pigments taking up > 50% of the projected surface (lacquering, print, coating or embossing).*
3		Testing of identifiability and separability in sensor-based sorting by measurement required for paper/cardboard and composites dyed black, using carbon black.*
4		Testing of identifiability and separability in sensor-based sorting by measurement required for paper/cardboard and composite with plastic-coated surface - excluding internal bag layers if the grammage is at least 100 g/m².*
5		Testing of identifiability and separability in sensor-based sorting by measurement required for paper/cardboard and composite with fully lacquered surface - excluding clear protective lacquer up to a thickness of ≤ 5 micrometers - excluding internal bag layers if the grammage is at least 100 g/m².*
6		In the presence of an aluminium foil layer, examination is required (testing if necessary) to determine whether the design causes sorting into the aluminium fraction. If this is the case, a complete loss of valuable material for packaging category 2 must be assumed.*
1		To be licensed as “paper, cardboard, fiberboard, and corrugated board” with fiber content ≥ 80%, otherwise as other composite materials. All double-coated papers are considered composites regardless of mass ratio. Papers coated/impregnated with paraffin or wax on one or both sides are always considered composites
1		Use PE (PE-HD, PE-LD, PE-LLD), PP (PP, OPP, BOPP) or PET one-sided coatings and laminates of less than 5% each (15% cumulatively) (PREP).
1		Recommended to avoid cured Ultra Violet (UV) Varnishes, UV Inks and metallised films. Use water soluble coatings such as starch (Repak).
1		Clay coated paper can be used. Avoid double sided plasitc coated rigid paper (H2R).

* German Minimum Standard 2025

Design-for-Recycling Guide for paper-based packaging (folding boxes, bags, pouches, composites)



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	Body of the folding box is made of repulpable cellulose fibres. Fibres from alternative non-woody plants, such as grass, cotton, if prepared for paper-making. Non paper components, like plastic viewing windows, are minimised and easy to separate from the fibrous material. Wet strength paper, greaseproof papers, waxed or wax-coated paper treated with fluorochemicals, unless recyclability is explicitly confirmed.	4
Colours	Colours are minimised and are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Colours containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	3 3
Barriers/ Coatings	No or only compatible barriers are used. Plastic and metal barriers with optimised adhesion (slight separation) are used, only one side-lamination, when possible. Plastic coating on both sides, wax coatings, siliconised papers and wet strengthened fibres; unless recyclability is explicitly confirmed.	1 2 3 1 1 2 1 1 1 1

Fillers	No additives are used. Only chemicals are used that do not interfere with the recycling process, such as mineral fillers (kaolin, talcum, titanium dioxide (white pigment). Wet strength agents if fibre recovery is not given, water soluble substances causing the release of micro plastics via the process water.	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	No non-paper components are used. Non-paper components (e.g., metal dosing aids, staples, zippers) are minimised and easy to separate from the fibrous material. The use of magnetic closures should be avoided.	
Seals	Non-paper components are minimised and easy to separate from the fibrous material.	
Functional closures	Functional closures, such as dosing aids, are made of the same material as the main body.	

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	Inks should be avoided as far as possible. Optimised quantity of used inks, non-toxic inks, that are in line with the EuPIA exclusion list. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are inks containing components of the EuPIA exclusion list.	1 2 5
Sleeves/ Labels	Labels should be avoided as far as possible. Recycling compatible paper labels are used. Plastic labels show a limited recycling compatibility.	
Adhesives	Quantity of adhesives is minimised and the removability is respected. Self-adhesive labels and adhesives leading to stickies show a limited recycling compatibility.	

A testing method suitable for proofing the removability of adhesive applications is PTS-RH 021/97, or INGEDE Method 12 adjusted for packaging. The exceptions granted for hotmelt adhesives in the EPRC Scorecard: (softening temperature of thermoplastic adhesives (according to R&B): ≥ 68°C, layer thickness (non-reactive adhesives): ≥ 120 µm, layer thickness (reactive adhesives): ≥ 60 µm, horizontal dimension of the adhesive application (in either direction): ≥ 1.6 mm).

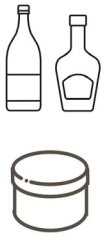
4.14 Glass bottles, jars

Examples:

Bottles 

Jars 

4.14.1 Acceptance overview

	ALDI Nord	ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type		
	✓	
	The packaging is accepted, when, as a minimum, amber rated packaging specifications within the Design-for-Recycling Guides are met. However, ALDI's expectation is to have all packaging designed at least light green rated. A detailed overview of the current availability of a collection, sorting and recycling system in ALDI markets can be found in the Annex (Chapter 9).	

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

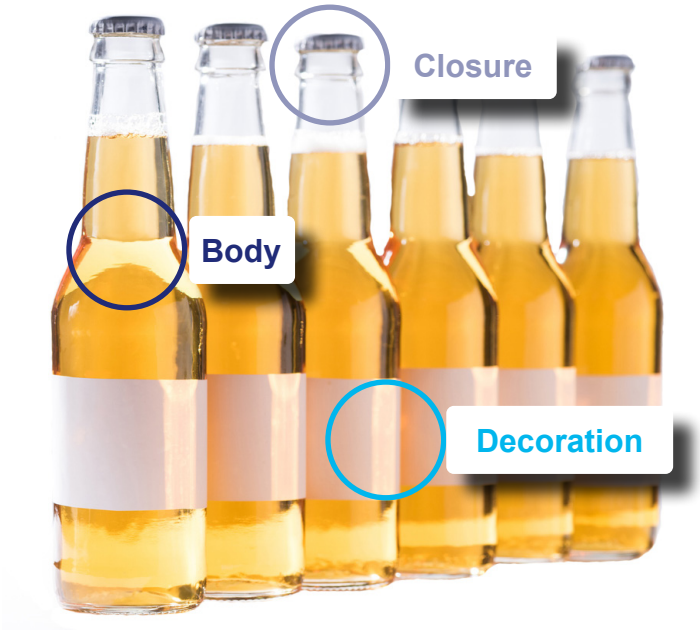
4.14.2 Design-for-Recycling (DfR) Guide

This subchapter consists of two sections: the country specific DfR table and the main DfR guide. The national specifications and/or deviations must be cross-referenced with the main DfR guide. For more information see subchapter 3.2.

Country specific DfR specifications/deviations

1		Penalties for black glass bottles.
1		Penalties for manufacturing with glass other than soda-lime glass: 50% (penalised fee).
2		Penalties for ceramic or non-magnetic steel closure system: 50% (penalised fee).
3		Penalties for associated infusion element (porcelain, ceramic, stoneware, etc.): 50% (penalised fee).
1		Penalties for soda-lime glass packaging combined with infusible element (porcelain, ceramics, earthenware).
2		Penalties for glass packaging with non-magnetic steel closure system.
3		Penalties for packaging made of glass other than soda-lime glass.
1		Glass shares with a level of transmission of less than 10% in a 400 nm to 780 nm wave range (e.g. due to varnishing or tinting) cannot be classified as recyclable content.
2		With demijohns, i.e. bottles covered with a basket, the glass share is to be considered completely lost.
1		Clear, transparent amber and green glass can be used. Avoid black, dark blue colours (PREP).
2		Avoid ceramics, borosilicate and heat treated glass (PREP).

Design-for-Recycling Guide for glass packaging



Key:

Recyclable Material	Compatible but Reduction of recyclability	Limited Recycling Compatibility	No Recycling Compatibility

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

BODY		Country specifics
Material	Container is made of transparent/translucent soda-lime-glass. For opal glass, the probability of being recycled is low, but does not represent an incompatibility Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are lead crystal, borosilicate glasses with high heat resistances.	1 1 3 2 2 3
Colours	Standard glass colours in white, green and brown are used. Transparency must be ensured. Dark translucent colours have a limited recycling compatibility. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are opaque colours shades, as well as surfaces with metallic effects.	1 1 1
Barriers/ Coatings	No protective lacquers or protective films are used. Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are protective lacquers or protective coatings, that would interfere with the processing (cullet production).	
Fillers	Not relevant.	

CLOSURE		Country specifics
Material	Closures are made of metal (tinplate or aluminium). Closures made of plastics should be avoided. Not compatible for recycling and strictly to be avoided are non-ferromagnetic metal and ceramic closures.	2  2 
Seals	Non-glass and non-metal components are minimised and easy to separate from the glass container. Moulded materials (unrelated to glass) and ceramic attachments are not compatible for recycling. Not compatible for recycling are ceramic attachments.	
Functional closures	Functional closures are made of metal (tinplate or aluminium). Not compatible for recycling and strictly to be avoided are swing stopper with non-ferromagnetic metal components.	

DECORATION		Country specifics
Printing/ Inks	No coating lacquers are used. Coating lacquers are minimised and recycling compatible (transparency, cullet production). Not compatible with recycling and strictly to be avoided are lacquers leading to opacities (full-surface, opaque finishes) or low cullet rates.	
Sleeves/ Labels	Recycling compatible labels (paper or plastics) or plastic sleeves are used. Self-adhesive labels, permanent adhesive labels, bottles with textiles or net sleeves cause a limited recycling compatibility.	
Adhesives	Adhesives are minimised and label or sleeve removability is respected. Hot melts and permanent adhesive labels cause a limited recycling compatibility.	

Key:

EPR related specifications

National labelling systems specifications/deviations

National technological specifications/deviations

4.15 Highlighted packaging formats

4.15.1  Coffee capsules

Coffee capsule - packaging or product?

Coffee capsules may be either packaging or products (so-called consumer goods). It is important to distinguish what happens to the coffee powder during the brewing process:

- If the coffee powder is rinsed out of the capsule, empty packaging remains. This packaging represents sales packaging that is subject to system participation and is therefore usually permitted in the separate collection system (yellow sack, yellow bin).
- If the coffee powder remains as a moist residue (coffee grounds) in the capsule, it is no longer packaging. The capsule must usually be disposed of as a product (consumer goods) in the residual waste bin.

The Environment Agency in the UK define as follows:

- Beverage system capsules (e.g., for coffee, cacao, or milk) which are left empty after use are considered packaging.
- Beverage system capsules, coffee foil pouches and filter paper coffee pods disposed together with the used coffee product are non-packaging.

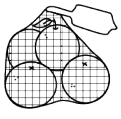
The EU legislator (PPWR) mandates to treat coffee or tea system single-serve units that are in practice disposed of together with the product residues as packaging.

In Australia the exact distinction of coffee capsules being considered product or packaging is currently formulated by APCO. Commonly they are perceived packaging.

The basic prerequisite for effective recycling varies depending on the material of the capsule. In principle, aluminium capsules are easy to sort out; the prerequisite here, however, is that they are not merely screened out without a corresponding sorting stage (such as fine screening). The latter requirement also applies to plastic-based capsule systems (mostly PP). In addition, a sorting technology specialised in very small packaging is required, which is currently not state of the art.

In some countries (UK, Italy, Spain, Belgium, France and Switzerland) separate take-back systems for coffee capsules have been established. An example is the Podback system in the UK. In Austria, a pilot project was initiated in 2022 for the separate collection of coffee capsules of all brands made of aluminium and plastic, via a separate recycling bag and the green bin “coffee capsules”.

In Belgium, all coffee capsules allowed to be collected via PMD, since January 2023.

4.15.2  Nets, mesh packaging

Net packaging for fruit and vegetables is used in particular for onions, potatoes and citrus fruits. The nets are usually made of plastic (PE, EPS), cotton or cellulose and are provided with labels or banderoles. When selecting the material, attention should always be paid to existing recycling infrastructures. There is no recycling path for cellulose-based plastic nets. The situation is further complicated by the fact that these nets can be recognised as paper during optical sorting and then cannot be pulped under the conditions of paper recycling. Established recycling structures for expanded polystyrene (EPS) and for cotton in the packaging sector are also not available.

Nets can usually be identified clearly in the automatic sorting according to material type. With wide-meshed packaging structures, safe discharge is made more difficult by the lack of air resistance. Wherever possible, nets should designed with flat packaging components, such as banderoles and bar labels, which support the discharge. Large-format nets, such as firewood nets or fir tree nets, are problematic in the sorting plants. Due to the mechanical processes in the sorting process, large-format nets tend to get tangled and cause blockages in the plants.

Ferromagnetic metal clips can cause problems during recycling and potentially lead to rejection of the net through metal detectors. If metal clips cannot be avoided, non-ferromagnetic metal (e.g. zinc and copper) should be used. Where possible, thermal or ultrasonic sealing methods should be encouraged or plastic clips used.

Dos	Dont's
• Mesh packaging made of PE • Focus on mono packaging • Increased sortability through identical materials for net structure and label/banderole, such as PE-HD net with PE-LD banderole • Close-meshed nets with "flat" components (labels, banderoles) increase sortability	• Mesh packaging made of cotton, EPS or cellulose • Nets made of different types of material, such as PE-HD net with paper composite label • Use of ferromagnetic metal clips, as these can lead to false discharges. • Design of wide-meshed nets (inefficient discharge due to low air resistance)

4.15.3 Oxo-and biodegradable plastics

Oxo-degradable plastics are defined by the European Committeee for Standardisation (CEN) as polymers which have been chemically modified to precipate the oxidation and fragmentation of the material through oxygen, UV light and/or heat. The fragmented pieces cannot be further decomposed by microorganisms leading to the formation of microplastics. The use of oxo-degradable and oxo-biodegradable plastics have been pronounced as an unsustainable interference in the circular economy, by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. ALDI does not accept the use of oxo-degradable or oxo-biodegradable materials in packaging.

Biodegradable plastics can be converted by microorganisms into carbon dioxide, water oxygenation into carbon dioxide, water, mineral salts and biomass with oxygenation. Without oxygenation, the material is converted to carbon dioxide, methane, mineral salts or biomass within an unspecified timeframe.

Compostable plastics are bio-based materials that will degrade in either industrial compost facilities or at home in the natural environment. Unlike biodegradable plastics, compostable plastics degrade in the environment and provide nutrients to the soil within a specified timeframe.

The Guidelines consider only mechanical recycling, therefore, biodegradable and compostable plastics are not considered recyclable in the sense of the Guidelines. Organic recycling is not a high quality recovery, no recycling path exists for biodegradable materials and decomposition processes can interfere with the high-quality recycling of other plastics.

Bio-based plastics, or so called **"drop-in plastics"** made from agricultural plants or waste, such as **bio-based PET**, **bio-based PE** or **bio-based PP** are accepted by ALDI as they are deemed chemically identical to their fossil-based counterparts. Recyclability of these bio-based polymer types depends on the same considerations as their fossil-based counterparts; refer to these within the Material Guide in order to assess the availability of infrastructure in each ALDI country.

4.16 Currently not accepted and non-recyclable packaging materials/ formats

This chapter summarises those packaging formats where there is currently no infrastructure available in any of ALDI's operating countries. Therefore they are not considered accepted by ALDI and thus no Design-for-Recycling Guide exists.

	ALDI Nord / ALDI SOUTH
Packaging materials	
	
Plastics: PVC, PVDC EPS PLA PA PC PET (only flexibles*) Polymer structure with Aluminium layer (e.g. ABL tubes)	The listed packaging materials/formats are not accepted for ALDI **from a recyclability perspective**, since there is no collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure available in any ALDI operating market. **Therefore there is also no Design for Recycling guide for these packaging types.** The listed packaging formats may be accepted and recyclable in the future, provided the infrastructure in our operating markets develop. The other packaging formats/materials listed within this guideline can be seen as alternatives.

* Flexible PET packaging formats refers to an actual stand-alone packaging format (e.g. candy wrapper, wrapping around non-food product). A flexible PET component as part of another main packaging format (e.g. sealing film on monomaterial PET tray) does not fall into this category and can still be used as long as it is compatible for recycling of the main packaging format (e.g. tray).

Packaging materials	These materials are difficult for recycling, since there is no comprehensive recycling infrastructure in ALDI operating countries implemented. Besides recyclability other environmental and sustainable considerations must be taken into account.
Jute Earthenware Wood Cellulose Textile (cotton, nylon, polyester)	

5 Classification of licence fees of composite packaging/coated paper

For composite packaging and coated papers, some countries have data on the fibre content and the related licence fees. The definition of composite packaging will be harmonised across EU member states from August 12, 2026 onwards. The proportion of paper fibre in composite packaging is then < 95%. In future, licence fees will be based on recyclability performance grades.

Country	Proportion of paper fibre in composite packaging / coated paper	Licence Fees
	**< 95%** (Source)	3.9092 €/kg (Composite materials in which paper-cardboard accounts for the greatest weight)
	**< 95%**	
	**< 95%** (Source)	0.730 €/kg (Other material composites Household; from 01.01.2022)
	**95%**	
	**95%**	23,03 €/t

6 Eco-modulation in ALDI countries

Eco-modulation has already been implemented in the following ALDI countries: Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and UK.

While in some countries a plastic tax was levied at the statutory level, in others extended producer responsibility (EPR) eco-modulated fees are implemented. Thus, specific fees for different material types are paid, often reflecting the situation of the implemented sorting and recycling infrastructure. Typically, packaging that are easier to recycle (or which can be sold for higher prices once recycled) lead to lower system costs and thus to lower fees.

The status quo of the implemented eco-modulation in individual countries will be updated every six months in this Guide.

6.1 Belgium

6.1.1 Eco-modulation of fees

With the eco-modulation of EPR fees, a higher fee is usually paid for less recyclable packaging than for recyclable packaging. Since 2021, a dissuasive Green Dot fee is given for packaging that hampers sorting and/or recycling. This includes the following (obstructive) packaging:

- Plastic cans with metal bottom or top
- Oxo degradable packaging
- Biodegradable (and compostable) plastic packaging
- Plastic bottles with at least 70% of which is covered by a sleeve (or 50% for bottles < 50 cl), if the sleeve consists of a different material than the bottle and is not perforated;
- Coloured plastic packaging with colours containing carbon black
- Laminated plastic packaging with aluminium film (fruit and vegetables, prepared meals, pet food, maintenance products and body care, wine (bag in box), coffee and cereals);
- Paper bags laminated with aluminium inside for powdered soups and sauces
- **Laminated cardboard packaging** of chips and milk powders with metal or plastic bottom or top
- **Black glass bottles**

The highest fee (4.4190€/kg excl. VAT) has to be paid for those types of packaging, and from 12 August 2026 also for additional types of packaging such as beverage capsules (compostable plastic), beverage bags & soft-after-use pads (non compostables) and sticky labels for fruit and vegetables (non compostables).

Green dot rates 2026 per material (extract)

Material - Recycled	2024 Rate (€/kg) excl. VAT	2025 Rate (€/kg) excl. VAT	2026 Rate (€/kg) excl. VAT
Glass	0.0687	0.0960	0.1052
Paper-cardboard	0.1209	0.1503	0.1503
Steel	0.0591	0.1117	0.1864
Aluminium < 50µm	0.0224	0.0481	0.0491
Aluminium ≥ 50µm			0.4513
Beverage cartons	0.6366	0.8180	0.8080
Cork		0.5855	1.2325
PET – bottles and flasks (transparent colourless)	0.0646	0.2718	0.3604
PET – bottles and flasks (transparent blue)	0.3325	0.7252	0.5527
PET – bottles and flasks - Transparent – other than colourless and blue		1.0527	1.2568
PET – Bottles and flasks – Opaque		1.3893	0.8776
PET – rigid packaging other than bottles and flasks (transparent)	1.0310	1.1244	1.1546
PET rigid packaging other than bottles and flasks - opaque	-	1.7609	1.1931
PE – bottles, flasks and other hard packaging	0.4694	0.5150	0.8019
PP – bottles, flasks and other rigid packaging	0.6843	0.8049	1.0161
PS & XPS – hard packaging, except for EPS	0.6107	0.9195	1.0007
EPS		0.5855	1.2325
PE – films	1.3828	1.2844	1.0804
Other plastics	1.8437	1.9546	2.2095
Valorised	4.0330	3.9092	4.4190
Non-valorised		3.9092	4.4190
Hazardous Household waste		1.0839	1.3784
The rates of the packages below will take effect from 12.8.2026			
Beverage capsules - aluminium	N/A	N/A	3.5525
Beverage capsules - plastic	N/A	N/A	3.8414
Beverage capsules - compostable plastic	N/A	N/A	4.4190
Beverage bags & soft-after-use pads - compostables	N/A	N/A	0.6879
Beverage bags & soft-after-use pads - non compostables	N/A	N/A	4.4190
Sticky labels for fruit and vegetables - compostables	N/A	N/A	0.6879
Sticky labels for fruit and vegetables - non compostables	N/A	N/A	4.4190
Obstructive packaging			
Household packaging that obstruct the collection, sorting or recycling	**4.0330**	**3.9092**	4.4190

Figure: Licence fees Belgium (Source: FostPlus Green Dot Rates 2024, 2025 and 2026)

6.2 France - The Bonus/penalty system (Citeo)

Already in 2023, new plastic rates are being introduced to support new sorting operations for plastics in the "development stream" with the aim of reating new recycling paths for 2025.

6.2.1 Different rates 2025 based on material families

MATERIAL	2024 Rate €/kg	2025 Rate €/kg	2026 Rate €/kg
Steel	0.0572	0.0535	0.0649
Aluminium	0.1534	0.1865	0.2434
Paper/cardboard	0.2019	0.2143	0.2581
Carton	0.3041	0.3800	0.4679
Glass	0.0150	0.0164	0.0201
Clear PET bottles or dispenser bottles	0.3816	0.5352	0.7000
PE bottles or dispenser bottles	0.4198	0.5887	0.7701
PP bottles or dispenser bottles	0.4198	0.5887	0.7701
Dark/coloured PET bottles or dispenser bottles	0.4694	0.5619	0.7351
Rigid PE packaging (except B&DB)[1]	0.4198	0.5887	0.7701
Rigid PP packaging (except B&DB)[1]	0.4198	0.5887	0.7701
Rigid PET packaging (except B&DB)[1]	0.5074	0.6422	0.8401
Flexible PE packaging	0.5465	0.5887	0.7701
PS rigid packaging (including XPS and EPS)	0.5836	0.6422	0.8051
Flexible PP packaging	0.6227	0.6422	0.8401
Composite packaging or other plastic resins except PVC (flexible or rigid)	0.6990	1.0703	1.4001
PVC packaging (flexible or rigid)	0.7632	1.6055	2.1001
Plastic packaging approved for composting (flexible)	-	-	0.8401
Other materials			
Wood, cork	0.2019	0.2143	0.2581
Textiles, other materials	0.5724	0.8028	1.0501
Stoneware, porcelain, ceramice, other metals	0.6678	0.9366	1.0501

[1] B&DB = Bottle and dispenser bottle

6.2.2 Eco-modulation aims

The eco-modulation system was designed to **encourage eco-design** of packaging and **integration of recycled materials**, as well as **awareness raising about sorting**, and to encourage companies to use packaging that is free of disrupting materials and recyclable. For this purpose, cumulative bonuses and progressive penalties are in effect.

The eco-modulation aims to reduce the environmental impact of the end of life of packaging with the following approaches:

- citizens' awareness to household packaging sorting,
- reduction of household packaging at source,
- use of refills.

6.2.3 Disruptive packaging

The objective is to limit "disruptive packaging" in the sorting and recycling stream. The term **"disruptive packaging"** is defined as follows:

- packaging addressed by sorting instructions, but which cannot be recycled;
- packaging with characteristics disrupt the end quality of recycled materials and significantly increase the cost of treatment.

Who decides that a packaging item is disruptive?

The sorting and recycling issues are analysed by technical committees (Cerec & Cotrep) and the recycling channels. Based on the technical considerations defined and taking into account the opinion issued by its Materials and Packaging Committee, EPR committee (including the Board of Directors of Citeo and some of its client administrators discuss where relevant the list of packaging to which an increase should be applied. All these propositions are then validated by public authorities. The list of disruptive packaging may be updated on the initiative of Citeo or Adelphe, or upon the proposal of the stakeholders. From this list of disruptive packagings are chosen the most disruptive ones to be subject to penalties.

Examples for disruptive packaging:

- glass packaging with a porcelain or ceramic cap;
- PET bottle/vial combined with aluminium or PET bottle/vial with silicone elements with density > 1 g/cm³.

6.2.4 Penalties

Three **graduated penalty levels** have been implemented to eliminate non-recycable packaging and/or packaging containing elements that disrupt recycling.

Packaging/Material	Penalty	Why apply this penalty?
Cardboard packaging with fully metallised faces	10%	The optical sorter's infrared beam is dispersed or blocked by metallised elements, preventing it from sorting the packaging properly. As a result, the packaging cannot be recycled.
Small format drinks packaging mostly made out of plastic and small format drinks cartons (volume ≤ 0.5 L)	25%	For the same volume of product, small formats use more material proportionally than large ones. In other words, to package one litre of drink: Two bottles of 0.5 L use more plastic than a 1 L bottle.
Grouping CSUs for special or ongoing promotional offers	25%	The goal is to limit the use of unnecessary multi-pack packaging, which is often added for marketing purposes (special or ongoing promotional offers) and does not serve for transport purposes or to protect products. Such packaging generates additional waste and does not fulfil an essential role as defined by the French Anti-Waste Law for a Circular economy, or AGEC Law.
PET, PE or PP bottles, dispenser bottles and other rigid packaging whose density is <1 for PET and >1 for PE and PP	50%	Flotation tanks are used in recycling processes to separate packaging components by density. PE and PP naturally tend to float, whereas PET and paper labels will sink. If the density of PE or PP is changed, the materials may behave differently and sink, which means they are not captured at the flotation sorting stage.
PET bottles, dispenser bottles and other rigid packaging that incorporates rigid plastic with a density >1	50%	Flotation tanks are used in recycling processes to separate packaging components by density. PET naturally sinks, whereas other plastic resins float. If other plastic resins are mixed in with PET, they can contaminate the PET recycling stream and lower its quality, which reduces the recycling potential.
PET bottles and dispenser bottles with an unperforated PET-G, PLA or PS sleeve	50%	PET-G, PS and PLA sleeves make sorting more difficult and disrupt clear and coloured PET recycling processes.
Bottles, dispenser bottles and other rigid packaging combined with aluminium, PVC or silicone with a density > 1	100%	These materials disrupt the recycling system, reduce the quality of the recycled material and damage the industrial equipment.
Dark, rigid plastic bottles, dispenser bottles and other such packaging that is undetectable by optical sorting (especially carbon black)	100%	The dark colour hinders detection during optical sorting at sorting centres and at recycling plants, leading to a loss of material. Dark or very dark packaging, often coloured using carbon black, is not detectable at optical sorting most of the time.

Packaging made of glass other than soda-lime glass	100%	A recycling stream is only available for soda-lime-type glass. Other types of glass cannot be recycled (e.g. borosilicate glass, crystal). What's more, non-soda-lime glass may disrupt the operation of glass furnaces and affect the quality of recycled material.
Soda-lime glass packaging combined with an infusible associated element (porcelain, ceramics, earthenware, etc.)	100%	Infusible elements do not melt in furnaces and can therefore disrupt the operation of the latter and affect the quality of the recycled material.
Glass packaging with a non-magnetic steel closure system	100%	Since 2017, glass recyclers have noticed an increasing quantity of non-magnetic metal elements in the broken glass collected from households. These elements include tops, caps, ties and other metal elements. These metal elements are separated from glass destined for recycling via magnetic sorting, for ferrous metals, or Eddy current sorting, for aluminium. The inclusion of residual non-magnetic metal in the glass recycling process can lead to various serious issues. It can cause technical incidents when producing new glass bottles, have an impact on the machines used during the recycling process, and even increase the risk of serious workplace accidents. **That's why reducing the amount of metal contaminants in the glass recycling process is essential.**

6.2.5 Bonus

- **REDUCTION BONUS:**
  - Reduction of packaging weight or empty space ratio.
  - Introduction of a refill.
  - Proportional bonus.

- **REUSE BONUS:**
  - Introduction of reusable packaging on the market.
  - Bonus 100%

- **AWARENESSRAISING BONUS:**
  - Inclusion of messages raising awareness of sorting in your communication campaigns.
  - 2026: The criteria for this bonus have changed.
  - Bonus 4%.

- **RESOURCES INCENTIVE**
  - Incentive for incorporating postconsumer recycled materials.
  - The Order published on 5 September 2025 changed the eligibility conditions for this incentive as well as the amounts awarded. The incentive for incorporating post-consumer recycled materials can no longer be claimed if a recycling disruptor penalty applies to your packaging, unless it's the 'Small beverage format' penalty or the 'multi-pack packaging' penalty.
  - 2026: The criteria for this incentive have changed
  - Incentive

6.3 Ireland - Repak

Repak charges different fees depending on whether packaging can or cannot be recycled. Non-recyclables are charged independently of the type of material.

Material	Costs €/t 2024	Costs €/t 2025	Costs €/t 2026
Recycled Paper/Cardboard	40.64	32.54	45.60
Recycled Glass	11.71	11.41	23.14
Recycled Aluminium	26.64	7.68	9.14
Recycled Steel	59.47	68.82	68.76
Recycled Rigid Plastic	138.89	146.03	169.70
Recycled Flexible Plastic	138.89	146.03	169.70
Non Recycled Plastic	**400.42**	**450.07**	**620.22**
Beverage Plastic Bottles – PET		146.03	169.70
Beverage Plastic Bottles – Other Plastics	138.89	146.03	169.70
Non Beverage Plastic Bottles	138.89	146.03	169.70
Recycled Wood	11.79	18.47	18.18
Recycled Composite	138.89	146.03	620.22
Non Recycled Other	**213.62**	**225.05**	**328.06**

Figure: Licence fees Ireland (Source: PRO Europe – Participation Costs Overview 2023 / Repak Fees 2025 / Repak Fees 2026)

6.4 Italy – CONAI Environmental Contribution

Through CONAI, the higher fees for separate waste collection, recycling and recovery of packaging waste are distributed to producers and users. The aim was to promote the use of more recyclable packaging by relating the contribution to the environmental impact at the end of the life cycle.

The more complex the sorting and recycling stages are, the more expensive the contribution becomes. Packages that cannot be recycled are rated the highest.

Since **January 2023 a further segmentation of plastic packaging** with 9 levels has been implemented:

Material	Contribution €/t (from 1st April 2024)	Contribution €/t (from 1st January 2025)	Contribution €/t (from 1st July 2025)	Contribution €/t (from 1st January 2026)
Steel	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Aluminium	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Paper	Level 1 (Basic): 65.00 Level 2 (CPL): 85.00 Level 3 (Mixed type C): 175.00 Level 4 (Mixed type D): 305.00	Level 1 (Basic): 65.00 Level 2 (CPL): 85.00 Level 3 (Mixed type C): 175.00 Level 4 (Mixed type D): 305.00	Level 1(Single-material): 65.00 Level 2 (type A composites): 65.00 Level 3.1 (type B1 composites - certified): 75.00 Level 3.2 (type B2 composites - non-cerified): 90.00 Level 4 (CPL): 135.00 Level 5.1 (type C1 composites - certified): 130.00 Level 5.2 (type C2 composites - non-certified): 175.00 Level 6 (type D composites): 305.00	Level 1(Single-material): 45.00 Level 2 (type A composites): 45.00 Level 3.1 (type B1 composites - certified): 55.00 Level 3.2 (type B2 composites - non-cerified): 70.00 Level 4 (CPL): 115.00 Level 5.1 (type C1 composites - certified): 110.00 Level 5.2 (type C2 composites - non-certified): 155.00 Level 6 (type D composites): 285.00
Wood	7.00	7.00	9.00	10.00
Plastics	Level A1.1: 24.00 Level A1.2: 90.00 Level A2: 220.00 Level B1.1: 224.00 Level B1.2: 233.00 Level B2.1: 441.00 Level B2.2: 589.00 Level B2.3: 650.00 Level C: 655.00	Level A1.1: 24.00 Level A1.2: 90.00 Level A2: 220.00 Level B1.1: 224.00 Level B1.2: 233.00 Level B2.1: 441.00 Level B2.2: 589.00 Level B2.3: 650.00 Level C: 655.00	Level A1.1: 40.00 Level A1.2: 87.00 Level A2 : 258.00 Level B1.1: 219.00 Level B1.2 : 228.00 Level B2.1 : 611.00 Level B2.2: 724.00 Level B2.3 : 785.00 Level C: 790.00	Level A1.1: 40.00 Level A1.2: 87.00 Level A2 : 258.00 Level B1.1: 219.00 Level B1.2 : 228.00 Level B2.1 : 611.00 Level B2.2: 724.00 Level B2.3 : 785.00 Level C: 790.00

Bioplastic	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00 (from 1st January 2026) 246.00 (from 1st July 2026)
Glass	15.00	15.00	35.00	40.00

Figure: Environmental contribution amount per material (Source: CONAI)

Level	Composite Type (% paper component of overall packaging weight)
1	Single material - paper component > 95%
2	A - paper component 90-95%
3.1	B1 - paper component 80-90% + certified[1]
3.2	B2 - paper component 80-90% + uncertified
4	CPL (composite containers for liquid)
5.1	C1 - paper component 60-80% + certified[1]
5.2	C2 - paper component 60-80% + uncertified
6	D - paper component < 60%

[1] Aticelca® 501-certified

For plastics, currently 9 levels are distinguished:

- **Level A1.1 i**ncludes rigid and flexible packages with an effective and consolidated industrial selection and recycling chain from the commerce and industry circuit;
- **Level A1.2** includes IBC drums and cisterns;
- **Level A2** includes flexible packaging with an effective and consolidated industrial sorting and recycling chain, such as liners and bags for industrial use, palletising hoods, shrink films for bundling;
- **Level B1.1** includes packages with an effective and consolidated sorting and recycling chain from mainly from the domestic circuit; **PET articles**
- **Level B1.2** includes packages with an effective and well-established industrial sorting and recycling chain, mainly from households; **articles in HDPE**
- **Level B2.1** is dedicated to other selectable/recyclable packages from households as well from the C&I circuit; **rigid PP monopolymer packaging**
- **Level B2.2** is dedicated to other sorted/recyclable packaging from households and/or C&I circuit; **flexible packaging in PE monopolymer** material other than those in Level A1.1 and A2
- **Level B2.3** is dedicated to packaging with experimental recycling chains in consolidation
- **Level C** includes packages for which there are no ongoing recycling activities or which cannot be sorted/recycled according to the current state of technology

6.5 Luxembourg – Valorlux

The Green Dot tariffs are calculated based of the collection and disposal costs and the income from the sale of the collected packaging materials. Beyond that, no incentive measures are in place.

Material	2024 €/kg excl. VAT	2025 €/kg excl. VAT	2026 €/kg excl. VAT
Glass	0.0201	0.0177	0.0203
Paper/Cardboard (≥ 85%)	0.0451	0.0402	0.0389
Drinking cardboard	0.3744	0.2900	0.2810
Steel (≥ 50%)	0.0180	0.0271	0.0396
Aluminium (≥ 50% and ≥ 50µ)	0.0184	0.0145	0.0151
PET - Bottles and flasks - transparent - colourless or slightly blue	0.1895	0.1957	0.2498
PET - Bottles and flasks - transparent - dark blue or green	0.4323	0.3661	0.3739
Bottles and flasks - transparent - other colours	0.3437	0.3029	0.4857
PET - Bottles and flasks - opaque	0.3498	0.3066	0.4871
HDPE - Bottles, flasks and other rigid packaging	0.1790	0.2407	0.3058
PE - Films	0.5413	0.7192	0.7120
PP - Bottles, flasks and other rigid packaging	0.3400	0.5151	0.4279
PS - Rigid packaging, except EPS	0.4891	0.4485	0.4372
Others recoverable	1.1279	1.1289	1.3973
EPS	0.1905	0.2112	0.2094
Cork	0.2124	0.2985	0.2238
Dangerous products	-	1.3995	1.7580
PET Trays	-	-	0.7806
Others non recoverable	1.2859	1.2630	1.4830

Figure: Licence fees Luxembourg (Source: Valorlux)

6.6 The Netherlands – Plastic fee modulation

The rates for 2026 show consistent stability, with the exception of beverage cartons and aluminium. The rates for glass, plastic, paper & cardboard, other metals, and wood remain the same as in 2025. The rate for reusable packaging also remains unchanged. Despite the increased workload, the system contribution for 2026 remains the same as in 2025.

Verpact (previously: Afvalfonds Verpakingen) will continue to reward highly recyclable packaging through differentiated tariffs. The total discount can amount to up to 60 cents per kilogram.

The discount on the use of recyclate (recycled content) has been increased from €0.10 to €0.20 per kilogram for 2025.

Verpact uses the KIDV Recycle Check to determine the recyclability of the packages. For packages that meet the Recycle Check conditions a lower fee can be applied.

Material - Type / Rate	2024 €/kg excl. VAT	2025 €/kg excl. VAT	2026 €/kg excl. VAT
Glass	0.100	0.100	0.100
Paper/Cardboard	0.017	0.017	0.017
Plastic rigid	1.220	1.220	1.220
Plastic flexible/not specified	1.320	1.320	1.320
Aluminium	0.200	0.300	0.340
Other metals	0.330	0.360	0.360
Wood	0.015	0.015	0.015
Beverage Cartons (Drink cartons)	0.840	0.880	0.920
Other material types	0.015	0.015	0.015

Figure: Afvalfonds Verpakkingen - Summary of fees in Euro per kilogram of packaging material (Source: Verpact)

6.7 Portugal – EPR Fees

ALDI Portugal partners with Sociedade Ponto Verde (SPV) [“Green Dot Portugal”], one of the licensed entities within the Portuguese integrated packaging and packaging waste management system (SIGRE - Sistema Integrado de Embalagens e Resíduos de Embalagens).

From January 1, 2026 onwards, eco-modulation criteria will be applied. This means that a 10% bonus will be applied to the financial contribution for a material if all relevant criteria are met.

Eco-modulation will serve as an economic incentive, and will also promote the adoption of design and development practices aligned with the principles of sustainability and/or recycling.

Depending on compliance with the eco-modulation criteria, the EPR fees of Sociedade Ponto Verde (SPV) for packaging, effective from January 1, 2026, are as follows:

Material	2026 Base Fees €/kg	2026 Bonus Fee €/kg
Glass	0.0868	0.0781
Paper/Cardboard	0.3104	0.2794
Beverage Carton	0.5140	0.4626
EPS	0.5432	
Plastic film	0.5432	0.4889
HDPE	0.5432	0.4889
PET	0.5432	0.4889
Other Plastic Packaging	0.5432	0.4889
PP	0.5432	0.4889
PET thermoformed	0.5432	0.4889
Steel	0.5219	
Aluminium	0.0399	0.0359
Wood	0.0599	
Cork	0.1162	
Other materials	0.5799	0.5799

6.8 Spain - Plastic tax

From 1.1.2023, **non-reusable packaging made of non-recycled plastic** placed on the market for the first time in Spain will be subject to a special tax. The plastic tax will be charged in the entire Spanish territory.

The following are subject to the plastic tax

- all non-returnable plastic packaging, whether it contains something or is empty
- semi-finished plastic products for the production of packaging (preforms, thermoplastic films)
- plastic products that enable packaging to be closed, marketed or presented

The amount of recycled plastic contained in the products shall be certified by an accredited certification body (Source).

It follows from the broad definition of the packaging law that not only sales packaging (primary packaging) is taxed, but also grouped packaging (secondary packaging) as well as transport packaging (tertiary packaging).

Products consisting of more than one material are only taxed according to the amount of non-recyclable plastic contained.

The **tax rate is € 0.45 per kg of non-recycled plastic**. The tax obligation does not apply to imports and intra-Community acquisitions < 5 kg/month.

Moreover, on 29 December 2022, the Royal Degree 1055/2022 on Packaging and Packaging Waste has entered into force. The new degree covers all packaging, regardless of whether it involves sales packaging (primary), grouped packaging (secondary) or transport packaging (tertiary), regardless of format, size or material (plastic, metal, cardboard or wood). Starting in 2024, Ecoembes will establish a new ecomodulation model for the Green dot fees, based on the guidelines set out in Royal Degree 1055/2022 on Packaging and Packaging Waste. A reduced fee will apply for packaging that is easier to sort and recycle and contains recycled raw materials, while penalties will be imposed for other packaging; determined on the basic price (B.P.) in 2026:

Material - Type / Rate	2026 Fees €/kg
Steel	
Beverage cans	0.197
Other packaging	0.197
Aluminium	
Beverage cans	0.040
Other packaging	0.040
PET	
Beverage Bottle ≤ 3L SUP (excl. Dairy and vegetable drinks)	0.271
Other Bottles	0.260
Other Bottles SUP	0.271
Trays and other rigid items	0.659

[1] Excluding dairy and vegetable drinks

SUP Trays and other rigid items	0.670
HDPE	
Rigid packaging	0.285
Rigid packaging - SUP	0.296
Other rigid plastics	
Rigid body	0.748
Rigid body - SUP	0.759
Plastic and flexible film	
Flexible packaging	1.243
Flexible packaging – SUP	1.254
UNE bags	0.586
Compostable packaging	
Non-SUP	0.205
SUP	0.216
Cardboard for food and drink	
Non-SUP packaging	0.533
SUP packaging	0.544
Paper and cardboard	
Non-SUP packaging	0.115
SUP packaging	0.126
Ceramic	0.013
Wood and cork	0.030
Other materials	1.243
Glass	0.03515 €/kg + 0.00498 €/ud

SUP: packaging affected by the SUP (Single-Use Plastic) Directive EU 2019/904

6.8.1 Ecomodulation of Green Dot Fees 2026

Material (Fractions)	Discounted Price 2 Attributes	Discounted Price 1 Attribute	Best Price 2026	Penalised Fee
Other Rigid Plastics	BP - 7.72%	BP - 3.86%	BP	BP + 10%
HDPE	BP - 3.2%	BP - 1.6%	BP	BP + 10%
Flexible Plastic	BP - 4.38%	BP - 2.19%	BP	BP + 10%
PET Tray	BP - 6.6%	BP - 3.3%	BP	BP + 10%
PET Non-Tray	BP - 0.86%	BP - 0.43%	BP	BP + 10%
Paper and Cardboard			BP	BP + 10%

BP: Best Price 2026

Penalties shall be set for the following disruptors, depending on the packaging and their base rate (2026):

1. PET NON-TRAY:

- Opaque packaging: B.P + 10 %
- Multimaterial packaging (including EVOH ≥ 5%): B.P + 10 %
- The labels take up ≥ 2/3 of the body of the packaging, are not made of PET and are not forcibly removed or do not have a zipper with legend: B.P + 10 %
- Accessory elements made of PVC, rubber, silicone and/or metals: B.P + 10 %

2. PET TRAY:

- Coloured and/or opaque packaging: B.P + 10 %
- The labels take up ≥ 2/3 of the body of the packaging, are not made of PET and are not forcibly removed or do not have a zipper with legend: B.P + 10 %
- Accessory elements made of PVC, rubber, silicone and/or metals: B.P + 10 %
- Multimaterial: B.P + 10 %

3. HDPE:

- Black (carbon black) packaging: B.P + 10 %
- Multimaterial (including EVOH ≥ 5%) packaging: B.P + 10 %
- The labels take up ≥ 2/3 of the body of the packaging, are not made of PE and are not forcibly removed or do not have a zipper with legend: B.P + 10 %
- Accessory elements made of PVC, rubber, silicone and/or metals: B.P + 10 %

4. FLEXIBLE PLASTIC:

- Black (carbon black) packaging: B.P + 10 %
- Multimaterial (including EVOH ≥ 5%) packaging: B.P + 10 %
- Accessory elements made of PVC, rubber, silicone and/or metals: B.P + 10 %

5. OTHER RIGID PLASTICS (PP,PS, PVC):

- Black (carbon black) packaging: B.P + 10 %
- Multimaterial (including EVOH ≥ 5%) packaging: B.P + 10 %
- The labels take up ≥ 2/3 of the packaging, are made of other materials and are not forcibly

removed or do not have a zipper with legend: B.P + 10 %
- Accessory elements made of PVC, rubber, silicone and/or metals: B.P + 10 %

6. PAPER / CARDBOARD:

- Composite packaging with paper/cardboard < 85%*: B.P. +10%
  *Exception for packaging that can be separated by hand by the consumer and that includes the legend “separate me” or other equivalent text that encourages separation or removal. As an alternative, the inclusion of icons for both containers (blue and yellow) may be used.

Bonuses (2026) are set for:

1. PET NON-TRAY

- Transparent or light blue: 1st DISCOUNT OF 0.43%
- > 25% post-consumer recycled PET: 1st DISCOUNT OF 0.43% or 2nd DISCOUNT OF 0.43%

2. PET TRAY

- Monomaterial: 1st DISCOUNT OF 3.3%
- contain > 25% post-consumer recycled PET: 2nd DISCOUNT OF 3.3%

3. HDPE

- Natural colour: 1st DISCOUNT OF 1.6%
- > 20% post-consumer recycled HDPE: 1st DISCOUNT OF 1.6% or 2nd DISCOUNT OF 1.6%

4. FLEXIBLE PLASTIC

- Transparent or natural in colour: 1st DISCOUNT OF 2.19%
- >20% postconsumer recycled plastic film (> 50% in bags): 1st DISCOUNT OF 2.19% or 2nd DISCOUNT OF 2.19%

5. OTHER RIGID PLASTICS (PP, PS, PVC)

- Natural colour: 1st DISCOUNT OF 3.86%
- > 20% postconsumer recycled plastic: 1st DISCOUNT OF 3.86%or 2nd DISCOUNT OF 3.86%

6.9 UK - Plastic packaging tax

On 01 April 2022, a Plastic Packaging Tax came into force that affects manufacturers of plastic packaging, business customers of manufacturers, and importers of plastic packaging, as well as consumers who buy plastic packaging or goods in plastic packaging. The tax is charged to plastic packaging that does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic or any packaging which is not predominantly plastic by weight. For the purposes of the Plastic Packaging Tax, all plastic is assumed to be made using non-recycled (virgin) material, unless there is evidence that recycled material has been used.

The following applies:

- Recycled plastic is plastic that has been reprocessed from recovered material by using a chemical or manufacturing process. Mass balance calculation to prove use of chemically recycled plastic content is currently not accepted but will be from 01 April 2027 (methodology is yet to be issued by HMRC).
- Recovered material is post-consumer plastic and pre-consumer plastic. Pre-consumer plastic will be **excluded** from Plastic Packaging Tax from 01 April 2027.

The Plastic Packaging Tax will be amended from £223.69 per tonne to £228.82 per tonne with effect from 01 April 2026. In case of multiple material packaging components, the total weight counts as plastic packaging, if plastic is the heaviest material.

Examples:

- A 10-gram carton is made up of 4 grams plastic, 3 grams aluminium and 3 grams of cardboard. All 10 grams will be considered a plastic packaging component, as plastic is the heaviest material.
- A packaging made up of 1-gram recycled plastic, 4 grams virgin plastic, 2 grams recycled aluminium and 3 grams recycled cardboard will not meet the threshold for recycled plastic (calculation in the example: 20%). The Plastic Packaging Tax is due on the entire 10 grams packaging.

7 Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

On February 11, 2025, the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) entered into force. Key provisions will take effect 18 months later, i.e. on August 12, 2026. The provisions will then apply directly in the EU member states.

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts to establish design for recycling criteria. These criteria are developed on the basis of the predominant material and shall

- take into account the ability of packaging waste to be separated into different material steams for recycling, sorted and recycled, so that the resulting secondary raw materials are of sufficient quality compared to the original material and can be used to substitute primary raw materials for packaging or other application where the quality of the recycled material is retained, where feasible;
- consider established collection end sorting processes proven in an operation environment and cover all packaging components: integrated components and separate components as well:
  - **"integrated component"** means a packaging component, whether or not of the same material as, or distinct from, the main body of the packaging unit, that is integral to the packaging unit and its functioning, that does not need to be separated from the main body of the packaging unit in order to ensure the functionality of the packaging unit and that is typically discarded at the same time as the main body of the packaging unit, although not necessarily via the same disposal route; Article 3 (43), PPWR;
  - **"separate component"** means a packaging component, whether or not from the same material as the main body of the packaging unit, that is distinct from the main body of the packaging unit, that needs to be disassembled completely and permanently from the main body of the packaging unit and that is typically discarded prior to and separately from the main body of the packaging unit, including packaging components that can be separated from each other simply through mechanical stress during transportation or sorting; Article 3 (44), PPWR.

PPWR distinguishes between 22 packaging categories (Table 1, Annex II, PPWR, Extract):

Category No	Predominant packaging material	Packaging type and format	AIRG
1	Glass	Glass and composite packaging, of which the majority is glass: bottles, jars, flacons, cosmetic pots, tubs, ampoules, vials made of glass (soda lime silica), aerosol cans	Chapter 4.14 Glass bottles, jars
2	Paper/cardboard	Paper/cardboard packaging: Boxes, trays, grouped packaging, flexible paper packaging (e.g. films, sheets, pouches, lidding, cones, wrappers)	Chapter 4.13 Paper-based packaging: folding boxes, bags, pouches, composites
3	Paper/cardboard	Composite packaging of which the majority is paper/cardboard: Liquid packaging board, and paper cups (i.e. laminated with polyolefin and with or without aluminium), trays, plates and cups, metallised or plastic laminated paper/cardboard, paper/cardboard with plastic liners/ windows	Chapter 4.13 Paper-based packaging: folding boxes, bags, pouches, composites
4	Metal	...	...
5	...	...	...

Important key data

Date	Scenario
2026, 12 August	PPWR enters into force on national level Declaration of conformity (Article 5, PPWR): PFAS
2027, 12 February	Preparation of guidelines for the detailed explanation of Annex V
2028, 1 January	Delegated act on performance levels for recyclability
2030, 1, January	Recyclability ≥ 70% (market ban for non-compliance) Declaration of conformity Article 5 to 12 Minimum recycled content, Article 7
2031, 1 July	Eco-Fee-Modulation
2035, 1 January	Recycling at scale becomes effective
2038, 1 January	Recyclability ≥ 80% (market ban for non-compliance)

8 Glossary

Overview of abbreviations (acronyms and technical terms)

Abbreviation	Explanation
Al	Aluminium
AlOx	Aluminium Oxide, is vapour-deposited onto the substrate to improve the barrier properties (e.g. chip bags).
ABL	Aluminium barrier laminate
AMP	Anhydride modified polyethylene
CaCO3	Calcium carbonate (lime) is a mineral filler used to save plastic
EuPIA GMP	EuPIA Good manufacturing Practice This Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) assists in controlling food safety hazards in the design and manufacture of inks, varnishes and coatings designed to be printed onto Food Contact Materials (FCM inks) and formulated for use on either the non-food contact or the food contact surfaces of food packaging and articles intended to come into contact with food".
d	Density
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene, foamed PS, known under the trade names "Styropor", Telgopor (Spain), Frigolit (Sweden), etc.
EVOH	Ethylene-Vinyl Alcohol, barrier plastic that is extruded or laminated onto films and papers or carton layers
H2R	How2Recycle
IML	In-mould-label: printed plastic films are welded onto the substrate as cut-to-size labels. No bonding agents are needed.
kGv	radiation quantity absorbed dose
LPB	Liquid packaging board, liquid composites with the structure paper/PE (e.g. milk cartons) or Paper/PE/Al (e.g. juices)
LWP	Light weight packaging, Sales packaging made of plastic, aluminium, tinplate and composite materials (excluding paper and glass)
NIR	Near Infrared, non-visible light spectrum between 780 and 2,500 nm. NIR-separators are used
OPE	Orientated Polyethylene, categorisation like PE
OPP	Orientated Polypropylene, categorisation like PP
OPRL	On Pack Recycling Label
OPS	Orientated Polystyrene, thermoformed PS
MDOPE	Mono directional orientated polyethylene
MPO	Mixed Polyolefins, generic term for PE and PP
PA	Polyamide, barrier plastic, e.g. Nylon

PA barrier layers	Mainly mechanically separable in the recycling process (if used for PET bottles)
PA blend	Mechanically inseparable as copolymer (if used for PET bottles)
PBT	Polybutylene terephthalate
PE	Polyethylene, Polyethylene is the most widely used plastic. It is found in bags, pouches, as an inner and outer coating on liquid composites and paper packaging. Common types of PE are: PE-HD, PE-MD, PE-LD.
PE-HD (HDPE)	Polyethylene with high density
PE-MD	Polyethylene with medium density
PE-LD (LDPE)	Polyethylene with low density
PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate. The main application of PET is the production of blow-moulded bottles.
PET-A	Polyethylene Terephthalate, amorph
PET-C	Polyethylene Terephtalate, identical to PET-A, but higher crystallinity: used for thermoforming containers, bowls or trays as they are microwave-safe
PET-G	Polyethylene Terephthalate, glycol based
PE-X	Polyethylene, cross-linked, no thermoplastic properties
PFAS	Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances
PU	Polyurethane
POM	Polyoxymethylene: high hardness and strength, often used for precision parts (components of pump heads) in the packaging sector
PVDC	Polyvinylidenchloride, barrier plastic: widely used in food packaging for products with high fat content and strong flavours and aromas due to excellent barrier properties.
PP	Polypropylene: important areas of application are packaging films as well as rigid packaging. Good barrier properties against grease and moisture.
PREP	Packaging Recyclability Evaluation Portal
Protective coatings	Coatings with food approval (such as corrosion protection for metal cans)
PS	Polystyrene: mainly used for food-packaging in rigid or foamed (EPS) form.
SiOx	Silicon Oxide: SiOx coatings are used as oxygen and water vapour barriers for films and bottles.
Stickies	Paper-technical term for adhesive impurities
Semi-Rigid packaging	As semi-rigid packaging behaves diffusely in the separation process (sorting), classification via flexibles (i.e. according to the stricter criteria) in the guide is generally recommended.
Tie layer	Tie layers are needed to bond dissimilar polymer layers (materials of different polarity). Process: coextrusion of multilayer films. An important tie layer resin is AMP; used to bond polyolefins to PA or EVOH.
TPE	Thermoplastic Elastomer

9 Annex

The foundation for recyclability at scale is a circular packaging design, which is why design for recycling comes first. Recyclability at scale, which considers whether materials are actually recycled in significant volumes through existing systems, comes second and depends on this initial design. The information we provide about recyclability at scale, such as country-specific recycling infrastructures and essential technical facts and physical properties that influence recyclability, is shared for informational purposes, as these external factors further support the journey from design to successful recycling in the real world.

9.1 Annex I: Current situation regarding available recycling infrastructure (country-specific)

The implementation and expansion of recycling infrastructures varies greatly from one country to another and is even not harmonised within Europe. To meet the requirements of the DIN standard, it is necessary to consider the country-specific characteristics.

The Guide was built on this basis and includes **up-to-date recycling information** of these 3 requirements “collected, processed and returned to use” from **18 countries**:

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxemburg
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Shanghai
- Switzerland
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- United States

The requirements for the **implementation of a recycling infrastructure** are described in the following steps…

Step 1	Implemented collection infrastructure	
Step 2	Diverted from the waste stream (= sorting)	
Step 3	Implemented recycling infrastructure (processed and returned to use)	

…whereby each country is subdivided according to its current status quo indicated by a colour scale:

Collection or recycling infrastructure available	Infrastructure in development / test phase	Infrastructure built up by ALDI
Collection or recycling infrastructure (with restrictions) available	No infrastructure implemented	No reliable information available

If no recycling infrastructure is implemented or if less than 20% of the population is connected to a separate collection system a red classification is given. Once the 20% threshold is exceeded, a recycling infrastructure in development is classified in orange. The same applies to developments or processes that are already being tested on an industrial scale. The green colour classification takes place as soon as more than 50% of the population is connected to a separate collection system; a light green classification indicates that the recycling infrastructure is not yet uniformly developed within the country.

The following questions must be answered:

Step 1	**Implemented collection infrastructure**
	**Is the packaging collected in the respective country?** **EXAMPLE** It is quite possible that certain packaging is explicitly excluded from collection. Metallised bags, such as PP chip bags, are excluded from collection in Denmark, Luxembourg and Norway. In these countries, the packaging thus does not reach the first stage within the value chain. **Result:** Chip bags cannot be claimed as recyclable for the above mentioned countries.
Step 2	**Diverted from the waste stream (= sorting)**
	**Is the packaging diverted from the material stream?** **EXAMPLE** It is possible that packaging is collected, but not separated in the sorting plant. For example, in Spain rigid plastics are collected regardless of the polymer type, but there is no individual material fraction into which polypropylene (PP) is sorted. The first step was passed, the second was not. **Result:** A package composed of PP cannot be claimed as recyclable in Spain.
Step 3	**Implemented recycling infrastructure (processed and returned to use)**
	**Is the collected and sorted package also recycled?** **EXAMPLE** In Germany, PP-cups are collected, sorted and recycled to a high standard.

It is important to know the **differences between the individual countries** in the development of the recycling infrastructure, also to individually assess the relevance of a guideline requirement. In any case, it is necessary to differentiate on a nation-state basis.

The status quo of the implemented recycling infrastructure for each country is shown in the subsequent overview.

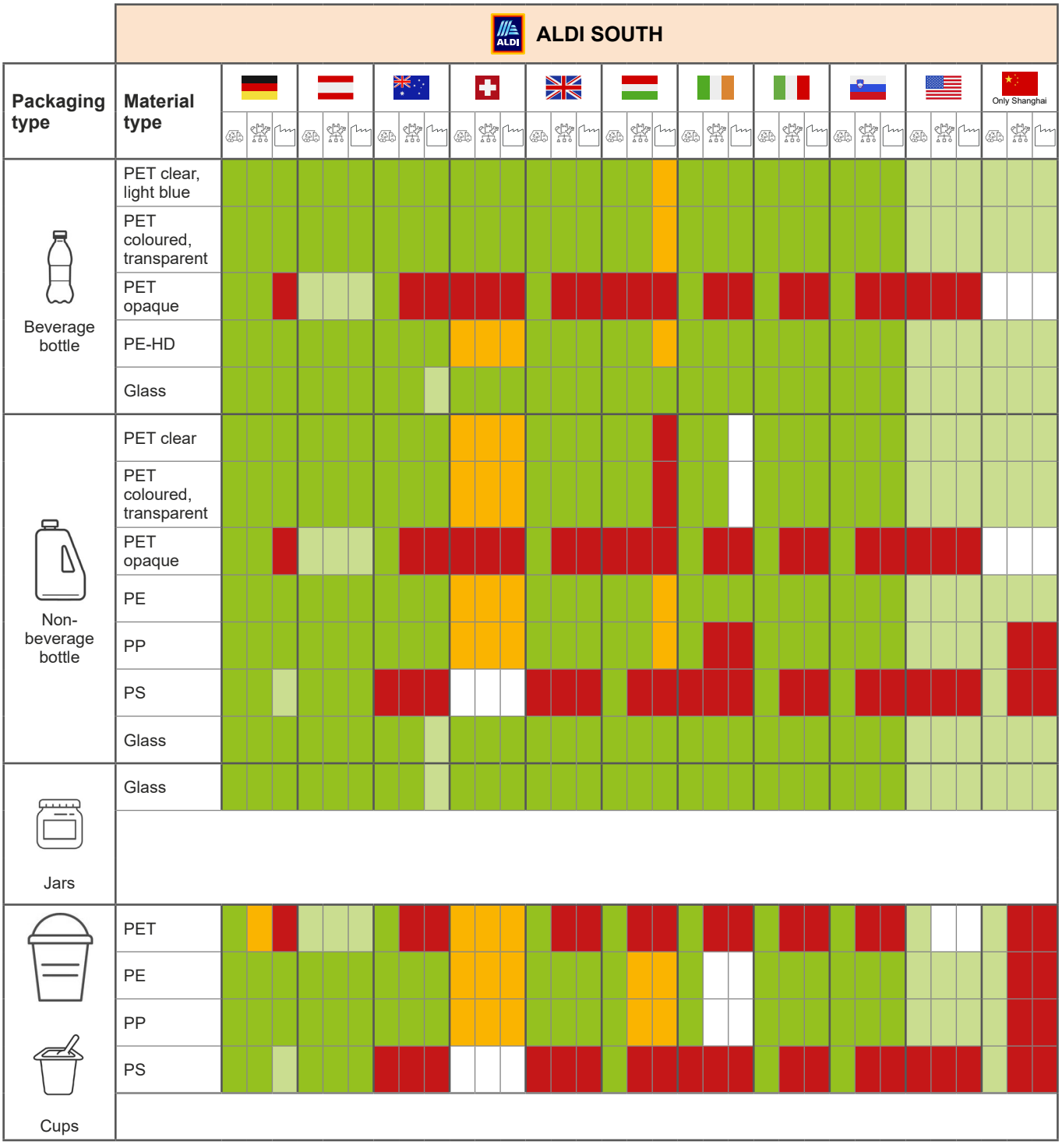
According to ALDI's recyclability definition, requirements of the guidelines, the classification of "no infrastructure implemented" applies as soon as a packaging cannot be made available in a country in a high-quality recycling process (Chapter 2).

Colour code:

Collection or recycling infrastructure available	Infrastructure in development / test phase	Infrastructure built up by ALDI
Collection or recycling infrastructure (with restrictions) available	No infrastructure implemented	No reliable information available

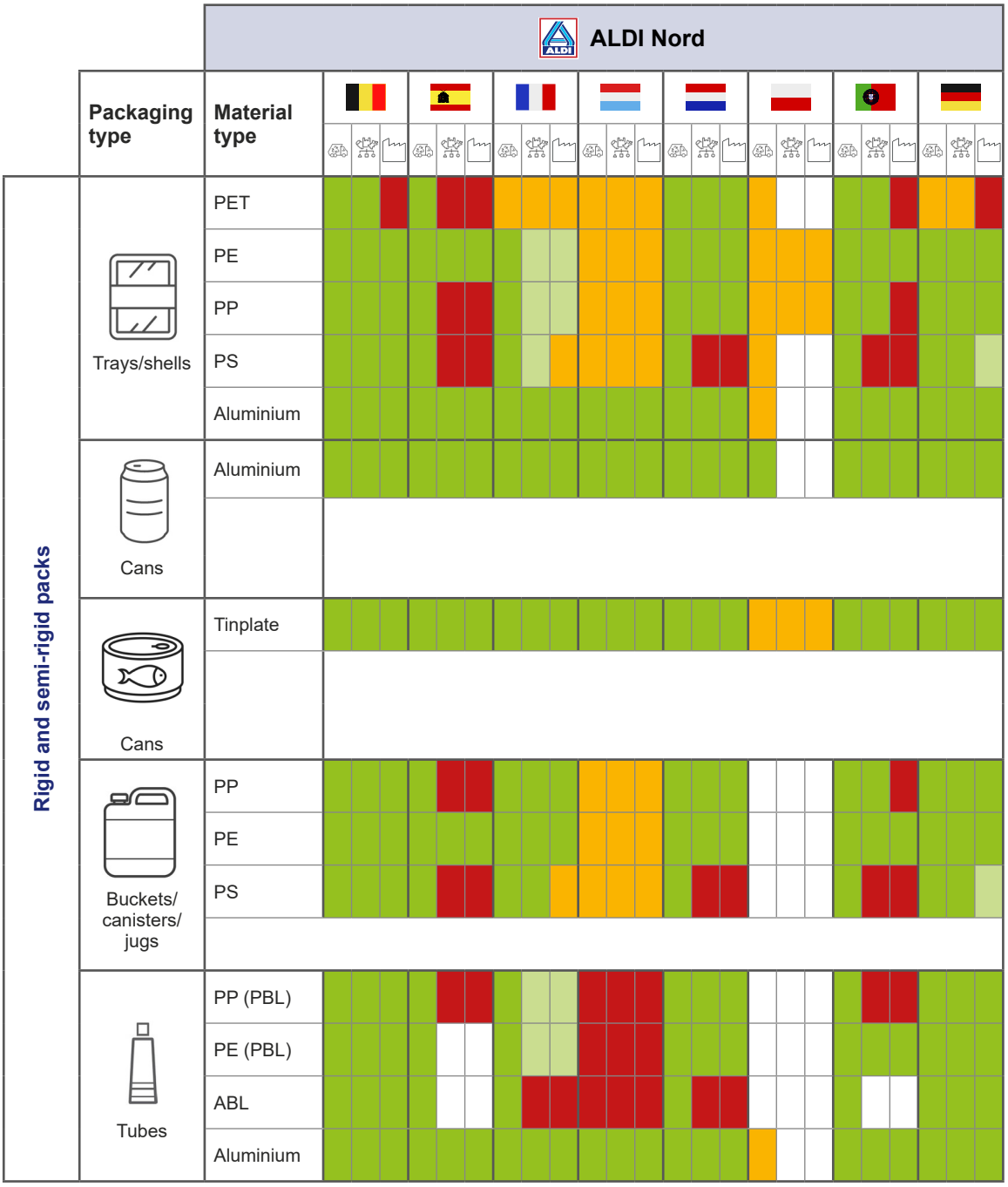
ALDI Nord

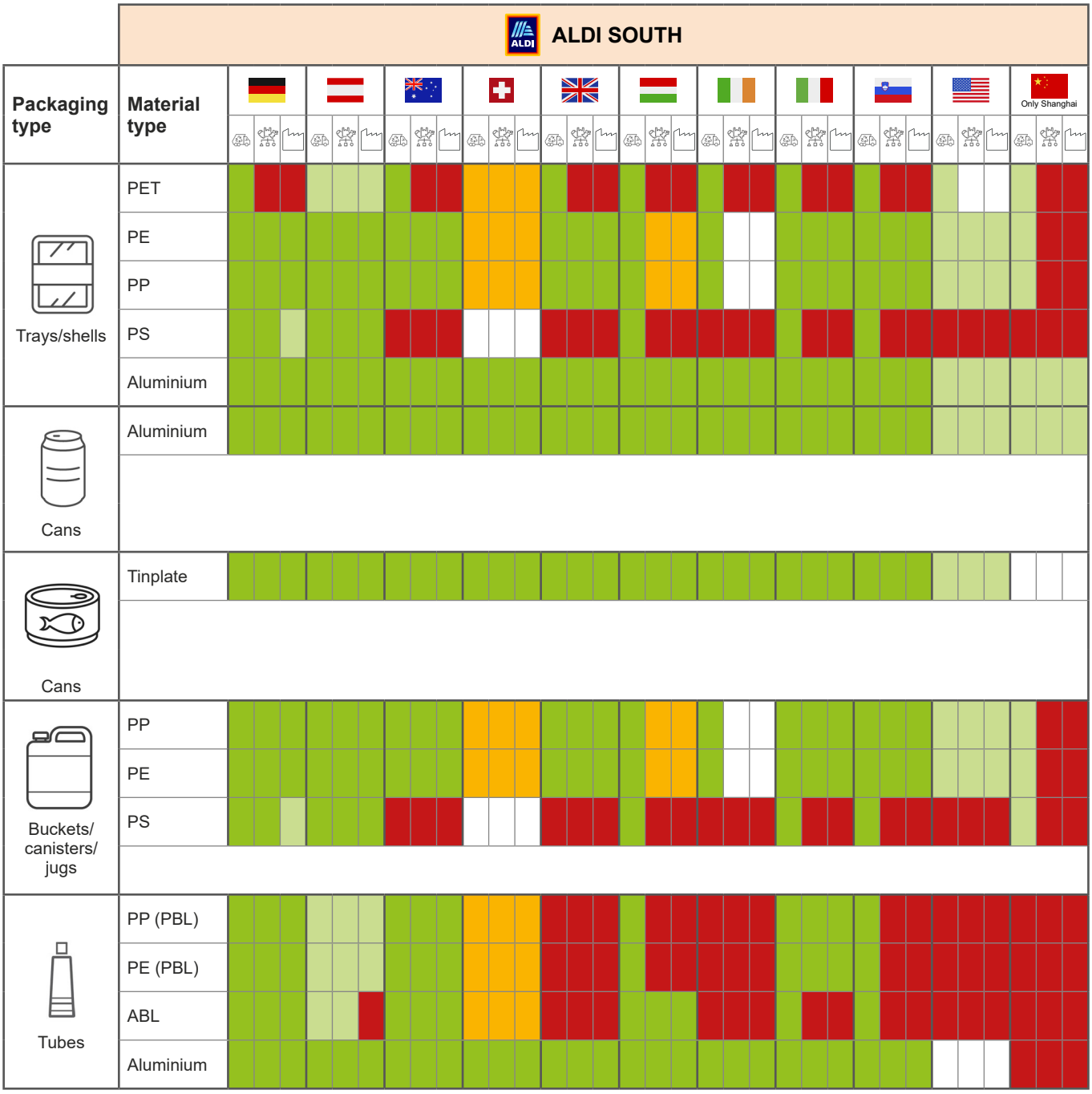
	Packaging type	Material type
Rigid and semi-rigid packs	Beverage bottle	PET clear, light blue
		PET coloured, transparent
		PET opaque
		PE-HD
		Glass
	Non-beverage bottle	PET clear
		PET coloured, transparent
		PET opaque
		PE
		PP
		PS
		Glass
	Jars	Glass
	Cups	PET
		PE
		PP
		PS


ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type
Material type
Only Shanghai
Beverage bottle
PET clear, light blue
PET coloured, transparent
PET opaque
PE-HD
Glass
Non-beverage bottle
PET clear
PET coloured, transparent
PET opaque
PE
PP
PS
Glass
Jars
Glass
Cups
PET
PE
PP
PS

Colour code:

Collection or recycling infrastructure available	Infrastructure in development / test phase	Infrastructure built up by ALDI
Collection or recycling infrastructure (with restrictions) available	No infrastructure implemented	No reliable information available

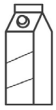


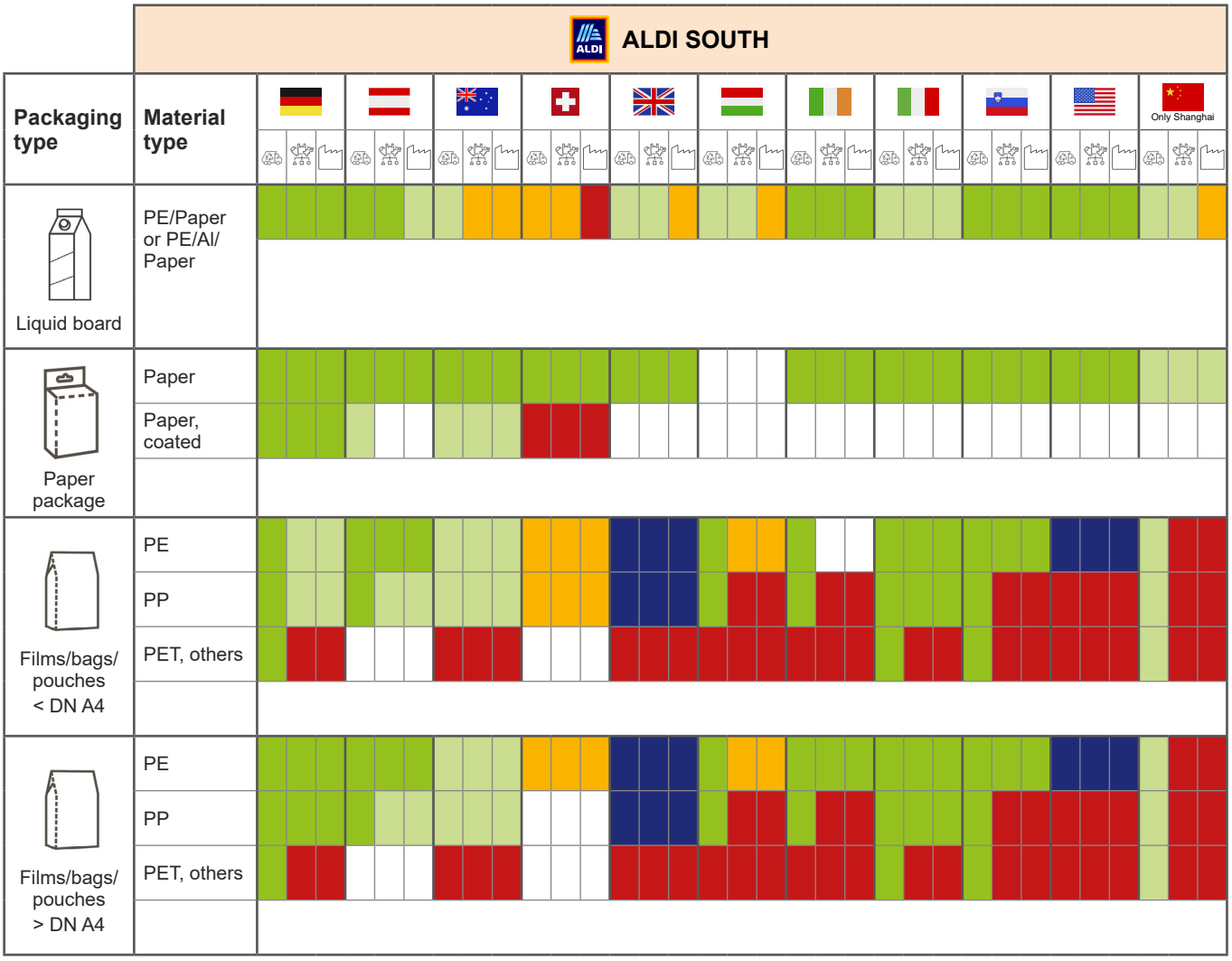

ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type
Material type
Only Shanghai
Trays/shells
PET
PE
PP
PS
Aluminium
Cans
Aluminium
Cans
Tinplate
Buckets/ canisters/ jugs
PP
PE
PS
Tubes
PP (PBL)
PE (PBL)
ABL
Aluminium

Colour code:

Collection or recycling infrastructure available	Infrastructure in development / test phase	Infrastructure built up by ALDI
Collection or recycling infrastructure (with restrictions) available	No infrastructure implemented	No reliable information available

ALDI Nord

	Packaging type	Material type	BE	ES	FR	LU	NL	PL	PT	DE
Rigid and semi-rigid packs	 Liquid board	PE/Paper or PE/Al/ Paper								
	 Paper package	Paper								
		Paper, coated								
Flexible packs	 Films/bags/ pouches < DN A4	PE								
		PP								
		PET, others								
	 Films/bags/ pouches > DN A4	PE								
		PP								
		PET, others								


ALDI SOUTH
Packaging type
Material type
Only Shanghai
Liquid board
PE/Paper or PE/Al/ Paper
Paper package
Paper
Paper, coated
Films/bags/ pouches < DN A4
PE
PP
PET, others
Films/bags/ pouches > DN A4
PE
PP
PET, others

9.2 Annex II: Essential technical facts and physical properties that influence recyclability

- NIR identifiability
- Magnetisability and other metallic properties
- Density of plastic materials
- Defibration properties of fibre-based materials
- Incompatibilities
- Fine screening
- Country specific size measures

9.2.1 NIR identifiability

Targeted sortability is the basic **prerequisite for recyclability**. Plastics and paper-based packaging are automatically detected and sorted using state of the art near-infrared scanners.

NIR scanners measure the reflection spectrum of the material layers near the surface.

Several **causes** are known for **defect detection**:

- The **use of soot-based pigments "carbon black"** for dark colouring (black, dark blue, midnight-blue, light-grey, brown) of plastics prevents material recognition. Regarding the functional and the decorative product design of the packaging those pigments should not be used in masterbatches and as light barrier in full sleeves. The same is required, when printing in large area base colours (fibre-based (composite) packaging, labels, sleeves, etc.).
- Large-area, **non-material labelling** can impair recognition of the basic structure.
- **Metallic or metallised layers** cannot be penetrated by the NIR.

The following basic rules are recommended:

Plastic packaging: Main body / separable components	
PET bottles	Avoid soot-based pigments or any other opaque colours.
PET trays	Avoid soot-based pigments.
PET other	
PP or PE rigids	
Printed PP or PE films/ flexibles	Ensure coverage of the main packaging body with a printing containing soot-based pigments is < 50%.
Decoration (e.g. sticky labels, sleeves, etc.)	
All materials	Ensure coverage of the main packaging body with label coloured with the use of soot-based pigments is < 50%.
Fibre-based composite packaging	
Ensure coverage of the main body containing soot-based pigments is < 50%.	
Fibre-based packaging	
Ensure coverage of the main body containing soot-based pigments is < 50%.	

However, simple laws or general guidelines often do not do justice to the complex interdependencies. The guideline often refers to the need for measurement if the packaging has properties that can impair NIR detectability.

9.2.2 Magnetisability and other metallic properties

The **ferromagnetic property** of a package/a product is usually a dominant property for its recyclability. In all standard recycling processes, this material property is **used as** one of the **first process stages for separation**. The use of ferromagnetic components in composite structures usually leads to sorting into the tinplate fraction. If tinplate/steel is a secondary material, this will lead to greatly reduced recyclability (e.g., composite can with tinplate base). The same applies when aluminium foil is used as a barrier layer. Metallisation, on the other hand, is not critical in this respect.

9.2.3 Density of plastic materials

All plastic recycling processes separate the individual types of plastic by exploiting the differences in density. It is important that the **polymer density is not fundamentally changed** by additives or multilayer structures. Separability of plastics according to their density is an essential basic requirement to produce high-quality recycled content. In recycling plants, the sorted plastics are separated from foreign polymers by means of float-sink separation. The separation of polyolefins (PE and PP) from PET or PS, for example, is carried out in the separating medium water. It is important for the recovery that the **polyolefin structure does not exceed a density of 0.995 g/cm³**. The separation of PS from plastics of higher density is carried out in salt solution at a separation density of 1.08 g/cm³. This results in the requirement to respect the typical density ranges in terms of design.

9.2.4 Defibration properties of fibre-based materials

The recyclability of paper-based packaging is largely determined by the potential for recovering the pulp fibres during wastepaper processing. In practice, this is done by means of water in the so-called pulping process. The **repulpability** and the quality of the dissolved pulp can be mainly influenced by the structural design, coatings, adhesives, and possible wet strengthening. **Folding boxes, corrugated board,** and other similar products **without hotmelt adhesives** as well as papers laminated on one side are a priori **considered to be uncritical**. When using hotmelt, the type of application must be considered. Sandwich constructions, dispersion-coated paper packaging, waxed papers and high-density fibre castings generally require individual verification to determine recyclability.

9.2.5 Incompatibilities

In the ALDI Guideline, “recycling-incompatible” is defined as packaging designs that contain **substances** or materials **that can lead to significant degradation** of the recycled material and even render it unusable.

For the purpose of simplicity, packaging designs are listed here that are compulsorily **rejected in their entirety** in established recycling processes, so that they are to be classified as a total loss in terms of recycling (e.g. masterbatches containing carbon black, large print areas with carbon black-bsed pigments, opaque PET bottles).

9.2.6 Fine screening

The primary function of fine screening in sorting is to **remove components that are harmful** to the plant (dirt, dust, glass splinters and organic components) from the process at an early stage. In addition, it is sometimes used to **simplify the sorting process**. In some cases, the screen sections of the fine screening are also historically conditioned. Irrespective of other design features of small-format packaging, the screen cut used must be taken into account for actual recycling (the message of the guide is of course not to make packaging larger, but to encourage those responsible for recycling to apply the state of the art).

Country Specific Size measures

When advertising small-format packaging, it must be checked at national level whether recycling is guaranteed.

In practice recyclable above ... mm																		
																		Only Shanghai
	40	50	40	50-60	30	80	50	20	50	50	50	40	n.a.	20-30	65	15-100	50	-
→	**Not all packaging sizes are sorted in practice, but are screened off as sorting residue. The table shows the mesh sizes in mm of the screens commonly used for fine particle separation.** **If a package is smaller than the specified mesh size in more than one dimension, the chance is high that it will not be sorted.**																	

To determine the recyclability of products sold in the UK, please refer to the Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM) process outlined in Chapter 2

Imprint

Copyright 2026 ALDI Einkauf SE & Co. oHG and ALDI SÜD KG

All contents of these guidelines, especially texts, photocopies, graphics are protected by copyrights. All rights, including, reproduction, publication, editing, translation remain reserved by the copyright holder.

These guidelines are not to be copied, or published, or redistributed* without the express prior written consent of the copyright holder.

The download and storage of the guidelines for personal use and non-commercial purposes is allowed, provided that any materials covered by copyright present in the same are protected and with the user undertaking to respect all copyrights and other rights contained.

*Exception: For business partners obtaining the guidelines via ALDI internal platforms, the redistribution of the guideline is only permitted to those business partners within the supply chain who are directly affected by the content of the guideline (e.g. packaging manufacturers).

Any given rights can be revoked at any time by the copyright holder.

Media owner, publisher and co-author:

For ALDI Nord
ALDI Einkauf SE & Co. oHG
Eckenbergstraße 16B
D-45307 Essen
VAT Reg. No.: DE 127 135 609
Commercial register: HRA 4688, Regional Court of Essen

Contact:
International Procurement CRQA, Packaging
packaging@aldi-nord.de

For ALDI SÜD Group
ALDI SÜD KG
Moserstraße 42
A-5020 Salzburg
VAT Reg. No.: ATU24963706
Commercial register: FN 26451z, Regional Court of Salzburg

Contact:
sustainability@aldisuedgroup.com

Please visit sustainability.aldisuedgroup.com for more information on our international sustainability activities.

Co-Author:

Sandra Beckamp, Dr. Joachim Christiani for

CHI - Institute cyclos HTP GmbH
Institute for Recyclability and Product Responsibility
Maria-Theresia Allee 35
52064 Aachen
Germany
Info@cyclos-htp.de

Exclusion of liability

The International Recyclability Guidelines is a global recommendation for ALDI EXCLUSIVE BRAND PRODUCTS of ALDI Nord and/or ALDI SÜD Group. The content of the International Recyclability Guidelines has been created with utmost care and diligence and will be updated in the upcoming years. Any liability for the correctness, completeness and up-to-dateness of the contents provided and the corresponding use is excluded. Utilization of the retrievable contents will be at the risk of the user.

References and links to other Internet sites have been carefully selected. However, their content, accuracy, currency, completeness and availability are beyond our control and we assume no warranty/liability therefore.