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PRESS RELEASE

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Recyclability Protocol for PP containers published by RecyClass

RecyClass' Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP (polypropylene) is a guidance for carrying out laboratory analysis of the various design features of rigid packaging made from PP resin. Its ultimate objective is to establish the level of compatibility of a given product with the PP recycling stream.

'Recycling of PP containers remains unexploited, advancing its recyclability adds to increasing the potential of this stream and is a long-awaited step that shall be valued if we are to reach the recycling targets,' said Werner Kruschitz, Chairman of the RecyClass PP Technical Committee.

The aim of the Protocol is to guarantee recyclability of PP containers as well as to support innovation in the PP market. It provides a detailed laboratory procedure on how to perform pre-treatment, extrusion, and conversion tests. These tests in turn will demonstrate whether the technology or product submitted for approval will have a negative impact on the recycling process. This Protocol does not include guidance on the sortability tests of a component.

Nico Van de Walle, Product & Circular Economy Manager at Verstraete IML (Multi-color Corporation) and RecyClass PP Technical Committee Representative, commented: 'It is an important development which is paving the way towards circularity of PP packaging. It provides brand owners and packaging producers with a laboratory procedure that measures recyclability of their technologies and shows the main points for improvement.'

With the goal of providing a structured and scientifically based framework for evaluation of plastic packaging innovation, RecyClass continues its work on developing guiding documents for other type of packaging. Among the already developed ones there is the Protocol for PE Films and HDPE containers¹. The contents of the Protocols are reviewed and maintained by the RecyClass Technical Committees which gathers experts from the whole packaging value chain.

Any parties interested in analysing their innovation are encouraged to contact RecyClass to carry out the testing (info@recyclass.eu).

About

RecyClass is a comprehensive cross industry initiative that works to advance plastic packaging recyclability within Europe. RecyClass assesses recyclability and provides specific recommendations on how to improve packaging design to fit current recycling technologies. Activities within RecyClass include the development of Recyclability Evaluation Protocols and testing of innovation materials. Findings are used to update the RecyClass Design for Recycling guidelines and the online free tool. Contact: Mireia.Boada@plasticsrecyclers.eu, www.recyclass.eu

¹ RecyClass Recyclability Protocols available at <https://recyclass.eu/recyclability-evaluation-protocols/>