

### **RecyClass Unwrapped** Advancing the circularity of PS packaging

Moderated by David Eslava, Deputy managing Director, **Eslava Plasticos** 

20 April 2022



# RecyClass

### PS MARKET: STATE OF PLAY

David Eslava Sanchez, Deputy Managing Director, ESLAVA PLASTICOS <u>d.eslava@eslavaplasticos.com</u> - +34 670245147 - <u>www.recyclass.eu</u>

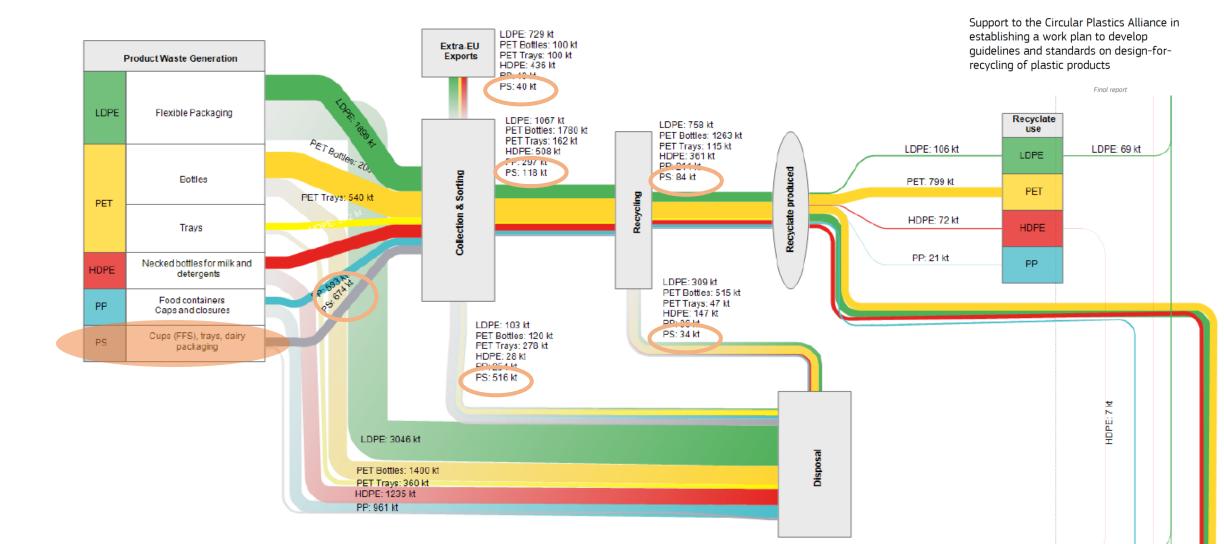
# RecyClass | CIRCULAR PLASTICS ALLIANCE

- To achieve the 10 million tonnes target, it is necessary to collect separately a minimum of 15 million tonnes of plastic waste per year, recyclable to an adequate quality to meet end market needs. This is a bare minimum, taking into account the unavoidable losses during the collection, sorting and recycling processes, with existing technologies, and under the assumptions that the 15 million tonnes of recyclable plastic products get collected separately (once waste), sorted for recycling and all the sorted waste is sent to recycling plants located inside the EU.
- This work plan includes a first list of product categories ("first wave") which account for at least 16.2 million tonnes of plastic waste available for collection every year (waste generated per year)

Packaging Products Team
LDPE Flexible Packaging
PP Flexible packaging
EPS Packaging
PET beverage bottles
PET Trays
HDPE necked bottles for milk and detergents
PP Food Containers, caps and closures
PS cups (FFS), trays and dairy packaging

# **RecyClass** | PS PACKAGING MARKET (JRC STUDY)

European Commission





#### **Messages to CPA**

- Circularity matrix = essential by synthetic view on circular feedstock AND recyclate uptake.
- 'Own sector' circularity (green) is only 26% of the total. (This does not even mean 'same application')
- Packaging = main circular feedstock with huge increase potential, but only uptaking 19% of its own recyclate.
- Construction leads in circular content and in uptake of own recyclate.
- CPA target of 10 MT uptake requires to develop 'inter-sector' circularity, on top of 'own sector'.
- Insufficient data quality ('Other' = biggest sector ???)

All polymers		Second life	Agriculture	Packaging	EEE	Construction	Automotive	Other	Total	% of
Initial	Demar	nd >>>	1.741	20.429	3.174	10.138	5.069	10.650	51.200	recyclate
application		Recyc. uptake	122	620	46	981	177	2.051	3.997	to own
	Waste	Recyc.prod.								sector
Agriculture	638	302	122	69	-	56	-	55	302	40%
Packaging	14.228	2.932	-	544	38	545	105	1.699	2.932	19%
EEE	630	72	-	-	8	23	23	19	72	11%
Construction	1.009	362	-	7	-	333	-	22	362	92%
Automotive	590	328	-	-	-	24	48	256	328	15%
Total	17.095	3.997	122	620	46	981	177	2.051	3.997	1.056
	% recycled content		7,0%	3,0%	1,4%	9,7%	3,5%	19,3%	7,8%	26%
	% RC from	own sector	7,0%	2,7%	0,2%	3,3%	1,0%			

## RecyClass | PS CIRCULARITY MATRIX

					Dair v					Non-food	Shock protection	Line r	Trays	Other E&E	Stationary <b>oti</b> ter rigid	PS Constructio n	- the state of the	C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C
					HIPS white	HIPS color	GPPS	XPS	EPS white	PS/ XPS	EPS white	HIPS white	GPPS	HIPS color	HIPS color	HIPS color	XPS color	EPS grey
			Dairy	HIPS white														
		Food	d G Other	HIPS color														
	Packaging			GPPS														
				XPS														
				EPS white														
		Non-food		PS/ XPS														
Feedstock initial		Shock	protection	EPS white														
application		Fridge	Liner	HIPS white														
	E&E appliances	-	Trays	GPPS														
		Other E	&E appliances	HIPS color														
			HIPS color															
			HIPS color															
	Construc	Construction		XPS color														
			Insulation	EPS grey														

## RecyClass | CIRCULAR PLASTICS ALLIANCE

The CPA declaration states that the CPA will work on guidelines and/or standards for:

- Design-for-recycling of plastic products (recyclability);
- Quality of plastics recycling and recycled plastics;
- Quality of sorted plastic waste.

To support this work, and as a follow-up on the European Strategy for Plastics (2018), DG GROW prepared a standardisation request to CEN-CENELEC on "plastics recycling and recycled plastics", to cover the standardisation needs of the CPA.

CEN-CENELEC has established a "Standardisation Request ad-hoc group" (SRAHG) on "Plastics Recycling and Recycled Plastics".

The Standardization Request was officially addressed from DG GROW to SHRAG on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Timeline to develop the standards is 36 months.







The product must be made **of plastic that is collected** for recycling, has market value, and/or is supported by a legislatively mandated program.

The product must **be sorted and aggregated into defined streams** for recycling processes.



The product **can be processed and reclaimed/recycled** with commercial recycling processes.

The recycled plastic becomes a raw material that is used in the production of new products.

# RecyClass | CURRENT MARKET SITUATION

**Consumption** : Huge potential to create a PS recycling market 647Kt cups, trays, dairy packaging in Europe yearly.

**Collection** : PS packaging is mostly collected in the mix plastic fraction but send to energy recovery or landfill due the lack of final markets application. Needs to be sorted in a new stream for recycling.

**Recycling** : PS packaging is <u>already recycled</u> but in a small quantities waiting to open new markets (food contact)

**French case** : France is the front runner in PS collection and recycling in Europe , brand owners have signed a statement to uptake recyclate in their packaging as soon as the PS recycling market is created (food contact needed), only France represents more than 10% of the European consumption.

**Other Countries :** The main European countries like Germany, Spain, Italy are starting new studies and trials for collection and recycling PS.





## Food contact, circular design & low carbon footprint – circular polystyrene

Jens Kathmann, Brussels, 20th April 2022 RecyClass unwrapped – Advancing the circularity of PS packaging

### From yoghurt pot... ... to yoghurt pot...

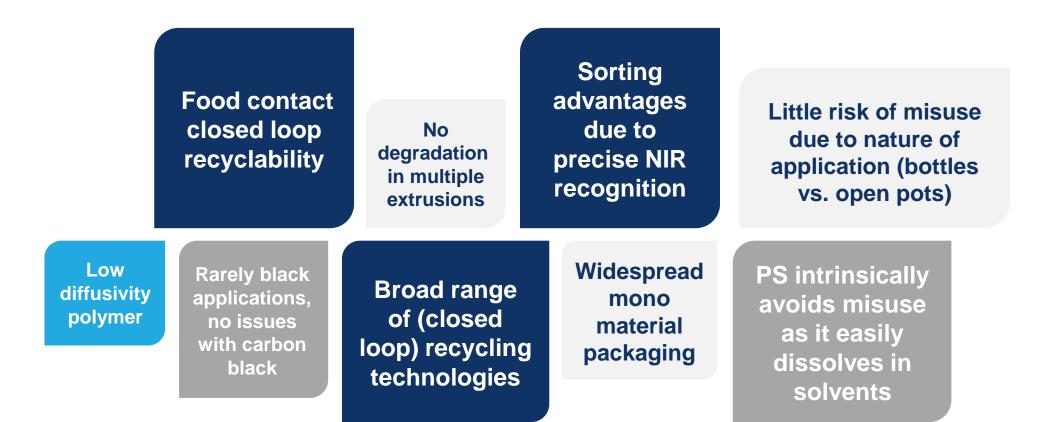
With its unique circularity, design optimisation & low carbon footprint, PS is extending closed-loop food contact recycling beyond bottles to new food grade applications





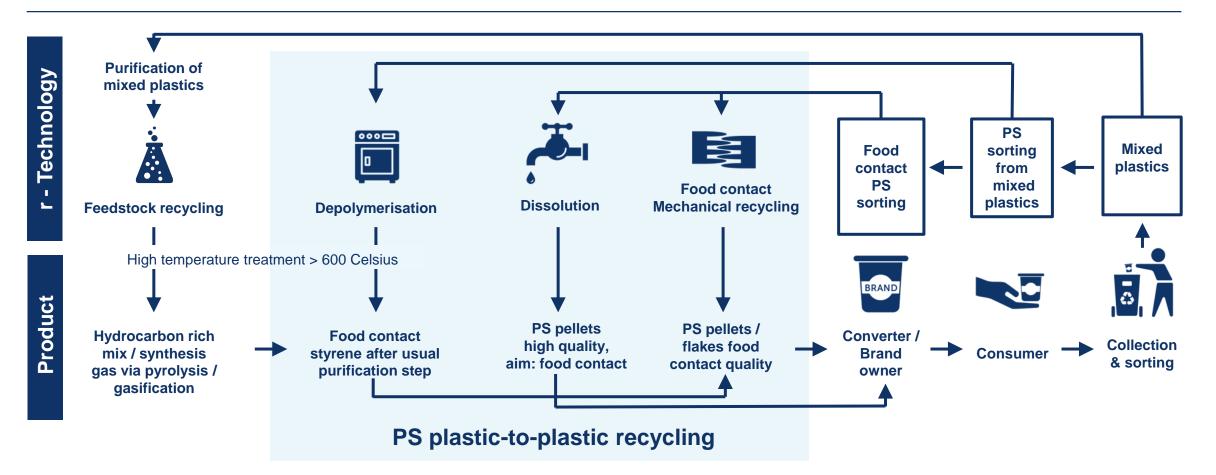


### PS unique circularity profile as basis for further design optimisation





### Portfolio of PS plastic-to-plastic recycling technologies



Low energy & CO2 footprint closed loop PS recycling for food contact quality



### Polystyrene – designed by nature for full circularity

#### Feedstock

- Critical mass with > 800kt
  PS sold into EU packaging
  market
- PS packaging is overwhelmingly food contact
- Outstanding sortability established

### **Recyclability**

Excellent closed loop recyclability and multiple recycling:



High purity mechanical recycling

Dissolution



Depolymerisation

### Output

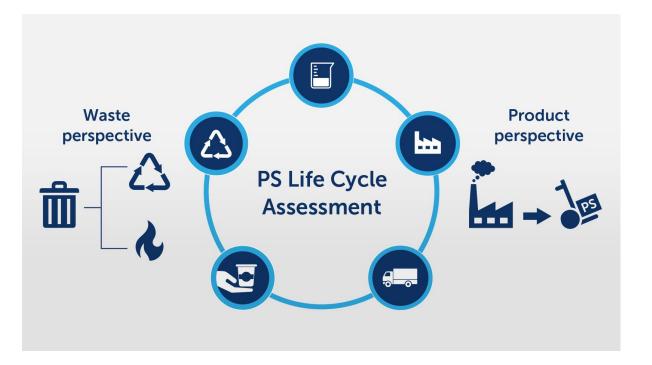
- Drop-in solution in converter equipment, form fill seal
- Freedom of design: all applications and recycled content levels possible
- Food contact quality enables series of EFSA applications

Very favourable environmental footprint LCA-proven

Scale-up implementation in line with the EU Plastics Strategy



### Life Cycle Analysis for PS closed loop food contact recycling routes



\*Comparative LCA according to ISO 14040/44

#### **Polystyrene LCA\* results**

High purity mechanical recycling of polystyrene feedstock from separate collection saves approx. 80% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to incineration and conventional production of virgin PS



Dissolution technology exhibits 75% CO<sub>2</sub> emission savings



Depolymerisation saves approx. 75% of  $CO_2$  emissions

### Confirmed circularity with significantly reduced carbon footprint



### **Circularity matrix broadens full circularity to other PS applications**

			Second life									
Mechanical recycling			-	u	p							
domain of rigid and foamed PS packaging			Dairy		Oti	Shock protection	Non-food					
First life			HIPS white	HIPS color	GPPS	XPS	EPS white	EPS white	PS/ XPS			
Food	Dairy	HIPS white										
	Other	HIPS color					•					
		GPPS										
		XPS										
		EPS white										
Shock protection		EPS white										
Non-food		PS/ XPS										



Advantages for the value chain:

- For recyclers: maximised feedstock access and ensured high value outlets
- For retailers, brands owners and convertors: maximised access to high value recyclate



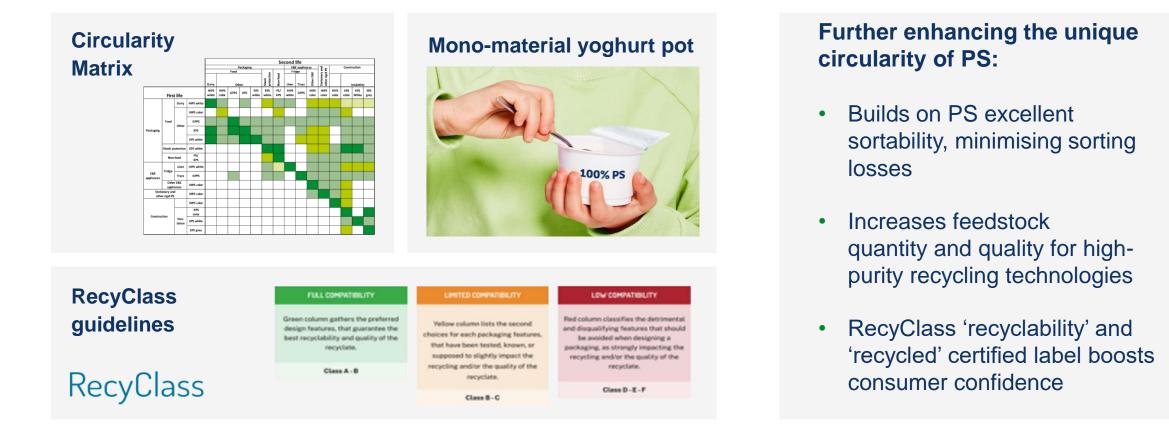
Higher priority based on technical feasibility, circular value, high potential for recycled content

#### Maximising PS feedstock for high purity recycling and high quality recyclate



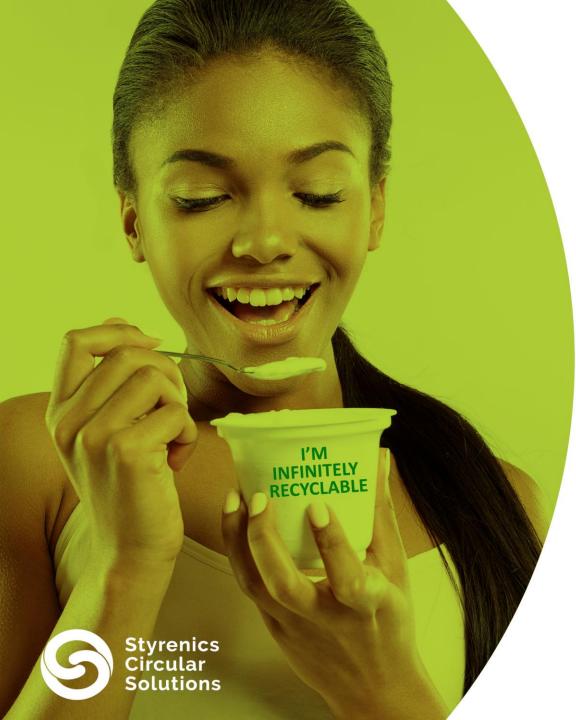
Low feasibility

### Design for recycling to propel PS circularity for food contact



#### ... and to further accelerate the scale-up implementation in line with the EU Plastics Strategy





### SCS website

styrenics-circular-solutions.com



### Full Circularity. Inspired by Design. Powered by Styrenics.

Impact of design for recycling on the unique circular value of polystyrene

30 November 2021 Event recording & event slide deck

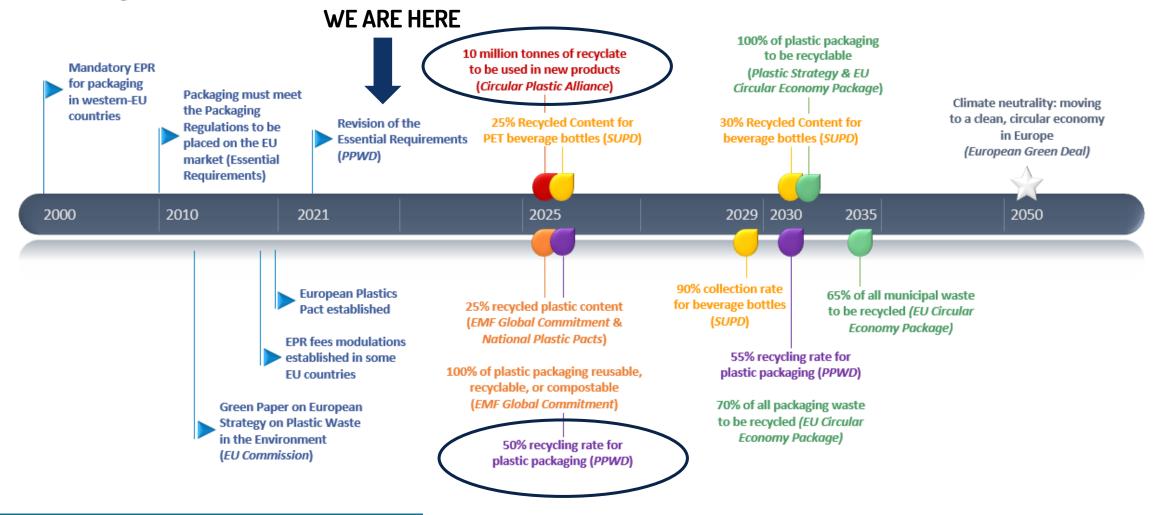
### Thank you!

# RecyClass

### PS PACKAGING CIRCULARITY WITH RECYCLASS

Fabrizio Di Gregorio, fabrizio.digregorio@plasticsrecyclers.eu Technical Director at Plastics Recyclers Europe RecyClass Coordinator

## **RecyClass** | THE CIRCULARITY JOURNEY



Multiple commitments to achieve

### RecyClass

# THE IMPORTANCE **OF HARMONISED** SCIENTIFIC-BASED INFORMATION

- ✓ Strengthens and gives
  credibility to the message;
- Provides for effective
  communication with
  stakeholders;
- Provides clear direction for design for recyclability policies within brands.

## RecyClass

## MISSION & VISION

### Plastic Future is Circular



Making plastic circular by ensuring all products are recyclable and by promoting transparent uptake of recycled content in new products in line with the circular economy

# RecyClass |

### HOW TEST AND/OR CERTIFY PS CONTAINERS FOR RECYCLABILITY

### **TESTING PROTOCOLS**

= ?

- Lab testing of innovative plastic packaging vs control material
- Comparison of properties
- Technology/Product Approval

### DESIGN FOR RECYCLING GUIDELINES

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	YES FIRE COMPATIBLITY	ODWOTTNING - LINTTED DOWNSTREETTY	NO-LOW COMPATIENTLY
WITHOUGH COMPONENTS INCOME OF NELLY ATTRONUCES A TRANSPORT	A + 60%, B + 80% and all periaging Systems are FULLY compatible with Registing	$E \approx 20\%$ and all packaging features are FULLY comparison with range ing	B < BDs. E + MPS, F + MPS, and all participing features are PGAL F comparisonal with recycling
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- Design guide & recommendations for plastic packaging
- Design for Recycling (DfR) Guidelines transposed in the tool
- Assessing **overall recyclability** of a finished package

### RECYCLABILITY ASSESSMENTS

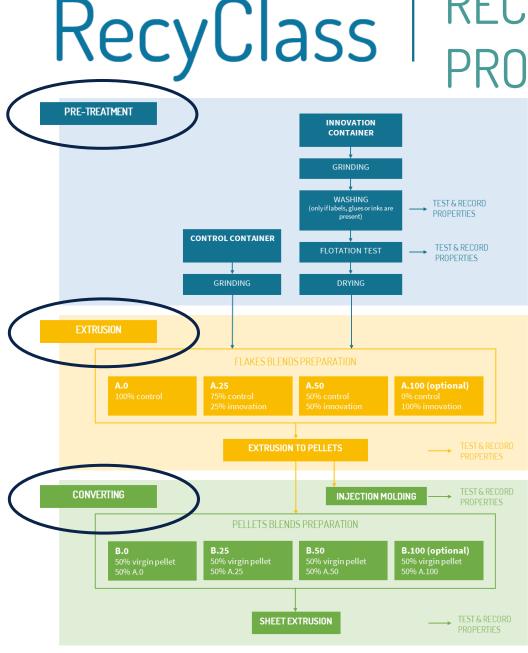


1a) Recyclability **Self-Assessment** with the RecyClass **Online Tool** 

1b) RecyClass Team support

2) Recyclability Certification (third party audit)

### RECYCLABILIY EVALUATION PROTOCOL for PS CONTAINERS

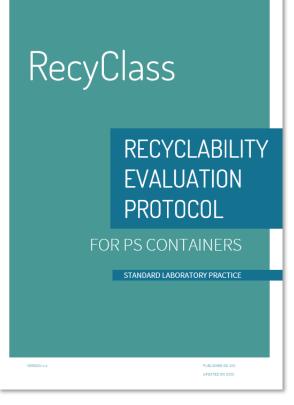


### Pre-treatment

Input: 10 kg innovation and 25 kg control samples

- Extrusion & pellet characterization
  Input: 3 blends of control and innovation flakes
  (with 0%, 25% and 50% of innovation)
- Conversion (50% dilution with virgin)
  Input: 3 blends of control and innovation pellets
  (with 0%, 12.5% and 25% of innovation)

### **RecyClass** | RECOGNIZED LABORATORIES FOR PS RECYCLABILITY PROTOCOL



### **3 Recognized Laboratories**

proplast

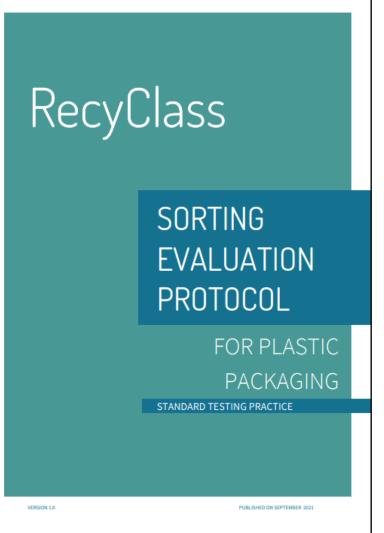


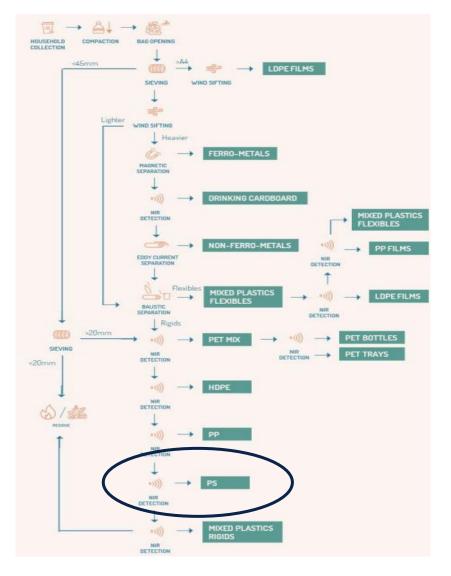
German lab already recognized by RecyClass for HDPE Containers and PP Containers Italian lab already recognized for PP Containers and PE Flexibles



US lab already recognized for HDPE, PP Containers and PE Flexibles

## RecyClass | SORTING PROTOCOL FOR PLASTIC PACKAGING





#### RECOGNIZED SORTING LINES



national test centre circular plastics

## **RecyClass** | QUICK TEST PROTOCOLS: floatation



#### Procedure

#### STEP 1:

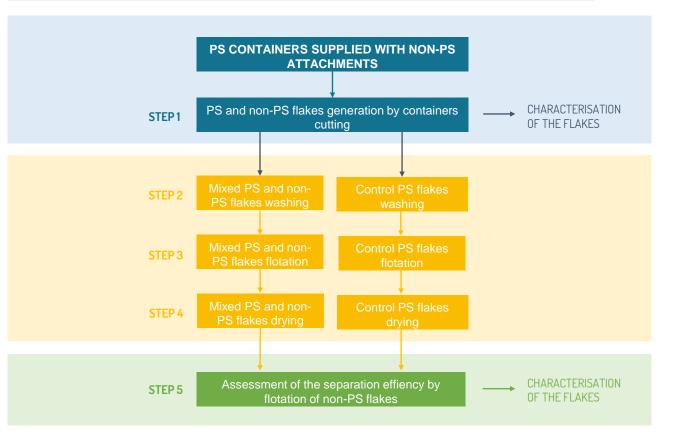
- Fill a vessel with tap water at a 1:6 ratio (5 kg washed flakes vs 30 l water).
- Add few drops of dish detergent
- Put each sample separately in the water and stir at 500 rpm for 4 minutes.
- Stop the stirrer and allow the water to rest for 2 minutes.
- Remove all the materials that float at the surface with a sieve.
- Take photos of the floating and sinking fractions separately
- Take photos of the water and save a wash for visual evaluation

#### STEP 2:

- Fill a vessel with tap water at a 1:6 ratio (5 kg sinking fraction of Step 1 vs 30 l water).
- Add few drops of dish detergent
- Add 12% of sodium chloride to the water solution (or any other salt) to increase the water density up to 1.08 g/cm $^3$
- Put the sank samples from STEP 1 in the water and stir at 500 rpm for 4 minutes.
- Stop the stirrer and allow the water to rest for 2 minutes.
- Recover all the materials that float at the surface with a sieve.
- Take photos of the floating and sinking fractions separately
- Take photos of the water and save a wash for visual evaluation

2 steps process:

- Step 1: Cut at ρ = 1 to separate PO
- Step 2: Cut at ρ= 1.08 to remove PET, PVC, etc.



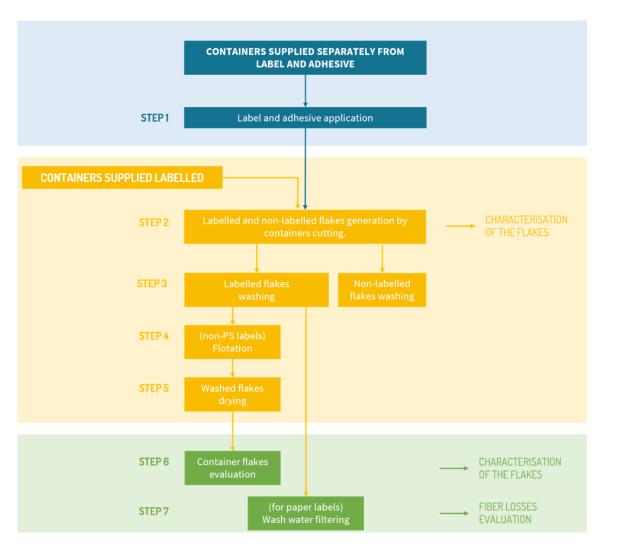
## **RecyClass** | QUICK TEST PROTOCOLS: washing

### RecyClass

WASHING QUICK TEST PROCEDURE

FOR LABELS APPLIED ON PS CONTAINERS

STANDARD LABORATORY PRACTICE



PUBLISHED ON XX 2022

## **RecyClass** | DESIGN FOR RECYCLING GUIDELINES

RecyClass

#### PS Coloured containers (except XPS and EPS)

	YES - FULL COMPATIBILITY	CONDITIONAL - LIMITED COMPATIBILITY	NO - LOW COMPATIBILITY
MATERIAL COMPOSITION (AMOUNT OF PS IN THE PACKAGING)	A > 95%, B > 90% and all packaging features are FULLY compatible with recycling	> 70% and all packaging features are FULLY compatible with recycling	D > 50%, E > 30%, F < 30% and all packaging features are FULLY compat with recycling
DESCRIPTION (TEST PROTOCOL)	Materials that passed the testing protocols with no negative impact	Materials that passed the testing protocols if certain conditions are met	Materials that failed the testing protocols
(IEST PROTOGOL)	materials that have not been tested (yet), but are known to be acceptable in PS recycling	materials that have not been tested (yet), but pose a low risk of interfering with PS recycling	materials that have not been tested (yet), but pose a high risk of interfer with PS recycling
DESCRIPTION (METHODOLOGY)	In case of at least one limited compatibility one penalty is applied, lowering the recyclability class from A to B or from B to C	In case of at least one limited compatibility one penalty is applied, lowering the recyclability class from C to D	In case of at least one limited compatibility one penalty is applied, lower the recyclability class from D to E or from E to F
MATERIAL*	PS		PS foamed < 1 g/cm <sup>3</sup> ; multilayers
COLOURS	Light colours	Dark colours (NIR detectable)	Non NIR detectable colours
SIZE		Items compacted < 5 cm	Items compacted < 2 cm
PRODUCT RESIDUES (EASY TO EMPTY INDEX)	A if the index is < 5%; B if the index is < 10%	C if the index is < 15%	D if the index is < 20%; E < if the index is 25%; F if the index is > 25%
BARRIER	$\langle$	EVOH	PA; PVDC
ADDITIVES	Additives that are unavoidable in processing (stabilizers, antioxidants, lubricants, nucleating agents, peroxides) and in formulation (SBS copolymer) with density remains between 1 and 1,07 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Mineral fillers (CaCO3, talc) not increasing density > 1,07 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	Additives increasing density > 1,07 g/cm³; Bio/oxo/photodegradable additives
CLOSURE SYSTEM	PS	PP, PE, paper without fiberloss	PET; PETG; PVC; PLA; Paper with fiberloss; Any other material with density >1 g/cm³; Non detaching or welded closures; Aluminium; metal
LINERS, SEALS AND VALVES	PS	PP; PE; EVA; TPE; Removable aluminium lidding	PET; PETG; PVC; PLA; Any other material with density >1 g/cm³; Metal; metal foil; silicone
LIDS	PS	PP; PE; Removable aluminium lidding; Paper without fiberloss	PVC; Aluminium foil; paper with fiberloss; Multilayer PET/paper or PET/PS; Any other material with density >1 g/cm³
OTHER COMPONENTS	PS	PP, PE, paper without fiberloss	PET; PETG; PVC; PLA; metal; metal foil; any other material with density >1 g/cr
INKS	Non toxic and non-bleeding inks (follow the EuPIA Guidelines)	>	Inks that bleed; Toxic or hazardous inks; PVC binders
LABELS MATERIALS (PSL, WET-GLUE LABELS, WRAP-AROUND LABELS, IML)	Labels in PS	Labels in PP, PE (with density < 1 g/cm³); Label in paper without fiberloss	Labels that hinder the recognition of the PS; PET; PETG; PVC; PLA; Paper with fiberloss; In-Mould-Labels; Metallised materials; Aluminium
ADHESIVES FOR LABELS	Water soluble adhesive (@ less than 40°C); Water releasable adhesive (@ less than 40°C)		Non-water soluble adhesive (@ less than 40°C); Non-water releasable adhesive (@ less than 40°C)
SLEEVES	Sleeves in PS; Self-separable plastic and cardboard sleeves under mechanical pressure ( <u>sorting</u> test mandatory)	Sleeves in PE, PO (with density < 1 g/cm³); Cardboard sleeves without fiberloss ( <u>sorting test</u> mandatory)	Sleeves that hinder the recognition of the PS; PET; PETG; PVC; PLA; Cardboard sleeves with fibreloss during recycling process; Metallised materials; Heavily inked sleeves; Aluminium
DIRECT PRINTING	Laser marked; Production or best-before date; Direct printing (inks + lacquer) representing < 1 wt% of the total packaging (except dark colours)	Any other direct printing	

# RecyClass | RE

### RECYCLABILITY CERTIFICATION : FOR **FINAL PACKAGE**

#### **DESIGN FOR RECYCLING ASSESSMENT**

### **RECYCLABILITY RATE ASSESSMENT**



- Qualitative Assessment: ranking from A to F
- Valid for the EU market
- Based on the European plastic waste streams
- Packaging design, sorting behaviour, end-markets included



- Quantitative Assessment: % of recyclable content, in addition to class ranking
- Country-specific
- Based on the local collection and availability of infrastructures
- Packaging design, sorting behaviour, end-markets included



#### RECYCLABILITY RATE CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

PRODUCT NAME BRAND NAME LEGAL COMPANY NAME AND ADRESS

The product and equivalent products listed in Annex I were assessed and certified according to RecyClass RecyClability Methodology (version 1.1) and Design for RecyCling Guidelines (Feb. 2021), hereby obtaining the following recyclability rate and class:





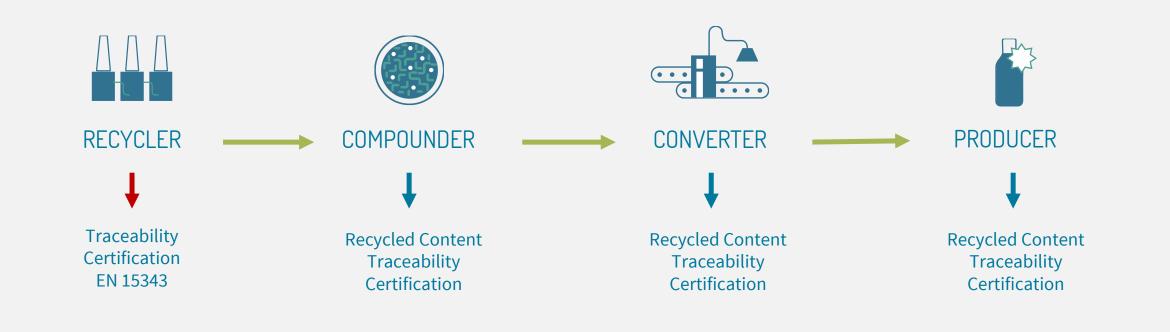
<u>Detailed information online</u>

# RecyClass

### RECYCLED PLASTIC CERTIFICATION:FOCUS AND SCOPE

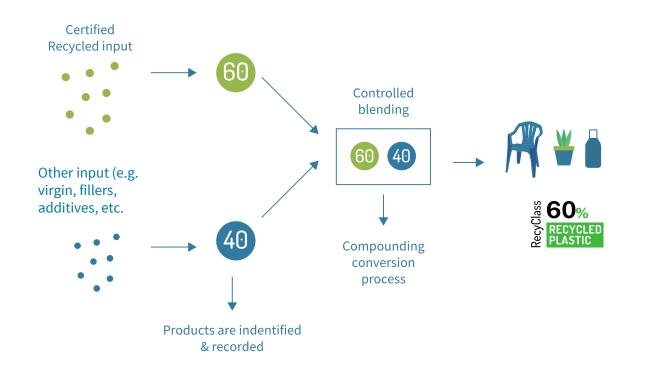
Certification recognises the use of recycled
 plastics in products via an independent third party audit. Certification is granted to a process
 linked to a product or group of products.

• Audit Scheme verifies the traceability of recycled material in different process steps throughout **the whole chain of custody of the recycled material.** 



## RecyClass | CONTROLLED BLENDING CHAIN OF CUSTODY

- Certification follows a <u>controlled blending</u> <u>approch</u> as a chain of custody model as described in ISO/IEC 22095:2020.
- The certification relates to recycled plastics when mixed with other materials or substances resulting in a known proportion of recycled content of plastics in output products.
- Focus on the **physical presence** of recycled plastics in the output.





# RecyClass | 2022 DEVELOPMENTS

#### CERTIFICATION READY FOR **ACCREDITATION**

- RecyClass CAS positively evaluated by EA according to ISO 17065.
- Recognised certification bodies to operate under accreditation within transition period of 2 years.

#### ALIGNMENT WITH **CPA AUDIT FRAMEWORK** REQUIREMENTS\*

- Addition of an Annex to be compliant with the CPA Audit
   Framework
   requirements.
- To be used as a verification of use of recycled plastics in a site/process.
- \*Pending official approval by the CPA Monitoring WG

#### RecyClass

#### 8. ANNEX I: CIRCULAR PLASTICS ALLIANCE

The following Annex verifies the tonnages to be reported to a CPA compliant Data Collector to count towards the monitoring of recycling and uptake of recyclates in the EU.

This Annex applies only to converters following the CPA definition. The following data points were evaluated and verified for the period XXX. The following data is compliant with Traceability Lavel X.

#### 8.1 CONVERTER'S TOTAL INPUT

pecify the Converter's Total Input value and the period assessed below to be declared.



Detail how the calculation was done to obtain the value and verify it is plausible. Check if any Converter's input was supplied by a trader. If this is the case, keep in mind that traders and compounders are subject to the same information obligation as recyclers (according to either Traceability level 1 or 2). If the plant has received any material which has been refused that is recorded. That material cannot be included in the monder thomase.

#### 8.2 CONVERTER'S OUTPUT

Specify the Converter's Total Output value and the period assessed below to be declared



#### RecyClass Recycled Plastics Traceability Certification ready for accreditation

#### RecyClass Conformity Assessment Scheme positively evaluated by the European cooperation for Accreditation

With the positive evaluation by the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)'s, RecyClass RecyCled Plastics Traceability Certification becomes the go-to scheme for companies that want to comply with the standard EN 15343:2007 and to stay ahead in the circular transition. The scheme verifies and certifies the origin, as well as the percentage of recycled content in, beyond packaging, virtually any plastic products in line with the latest market and regulatory developments.

"It is a clear signal to all the actors of the value chain who are searching for a reliable and credible scheme to certify the circularity of their plastic products", said Paolo Glerean, Chairman of RecyClass. "This positive evaluation will bring more transparency on the market and give confidence to both downstream and end-users. We are convinced that such a robust tool will constitute major support for the companies willing to substantiate their commitment on the use of recycled plastics" he added.

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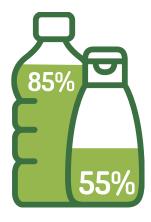


## RECYCLABILITY

 ✓ Testing Protocols
 ✓ DfR Guidelines
 ✓ Recyclability Methodology
 ✓ Online-Tool
 ✓ Recyclability Certifications & associated claims/logos

## RECYCLED CONTENT

 ✓ Recycled Plastics calculation (controlled blending approach)
 ✓ Recycled Plastics Traceability Certification & associated claims/logos



## Recyclass Plastics future is circular



## Questions & Answers

## Use the Q&A box in the top-right corner of your screen





### Thank you for participating!

### Save the date! 6 July

Your feedback matters! Webinar Evaluation Form

RecyClass