RecyClass FOR BEGINNERS

RecyClass Online Tool: How to evaluate your plastic packaging?

21 September 2022

Fabrizio Di Gregorio, Technical Director, Plastics Recyclers Europe Martina Legnini, Recycling Analyst, Plastics Recyclers Europe



Users intending to use RecyClass logos and recyclability claims must complete RecyClass Certification. The results from the Online Tool alone are not sufficient.

WHAT IS THE RECYCLASS ONLINE TOOL?

Free-of-charge tool for self-assessment of plastic packaging recyclability.

- Ranks the recyclability of plastic packaging in an easily understandable manner, based on RecyClass Methodology
- Evaluates packaging recyclability given the existing recycling streams
- Gives precise indications on critical points to be improved
- Provides mapping of European waste management infrastructure

RecyClass | A BIT OF HISTORY

May 2014

First RecyClass

DfR Guidelines

& launch of the

Online Tool

June 2020

Release of the **Recyclability Methodology** v.1

June 2021

Comprehensive update of the **Online Tool**

June 2022

New design of the Tool and analysis without registration















June 2018

RecyClass welcomed the first **members**

Sept 2020

Launch of the Recyclability Certification Scheme

February 2022

Addition of the **Mapping** of European Infrastructures



WHAT MAKES A PRODUCT RECYCLABLE?











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

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

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

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

RecyClass | How to Claim Recyclability?

DESIGN FOR RECYCLING GUIDELINES



- Design guide & recommendations for plastic packaging
- Design for Recycling (DfR)
 Guidelines transposed in the tool
- Assessing overall recyclability of a finished package

RECYCLASS TOOL



- Recyclability Self-Assessment
- RecyClass Team support

RECYCLABILITY CERTIFICATION



Recyclability **Assessment** by recognized Certification
 Bodies

RECYCLASS METHODOLOGY

- **EXISTING RECYCLING STREAMS & SORTABILITY**
- 7 RECYCLABLE PLASTIC CONTENT
- **DESIGN INCOMPATIBILITIES** (DfR guidelines)
- EASY-TO-EMPTY / EASY-TO-ACCESS INDEX
- 5 REACH COMPLIANCE

RECYCLABILITY CLASSES



CLASS A

The packaging does not pose any recyclability issues and the recycled plastics can potentially feed a closed-loop scheme to be used in the same quality application.



CLASS B

The packaging has some minor recyclability issues that slightly affect the quality of the recycled plastic generated. However, majority of recycled plastics from this packaging can still potentially feed a closed loop.



CLASS C

The packaging presents some recyclability issues that affect the quality of the recycled plastics or lead to material losses during recycling. In the first case the recycled plastic could be used in a cascade open-loop scheme, whereas in the latter case the plastic could potentially feed a closed loop scheme.



CLASS D

The packaging has significant design issues that highly affect its recyclability or imply large material losses. In both cases the recycled plastic can only be fed into low-value applications (i.e. the packaging will be downcycled).



CLASS E

The packaging has major design issues that jeopardize its recyclability or imply severe material losses. The packaging is not considered recyclable and can only be used in incineration with energy recovery.



CLASS F

The package is not recyclable at all, either because of fundamental design issues or a lack of specific infrastructure for collection, sorting and recycling in EU28+2.

RecyClass | STEP BY STEP ANALYSIS

SUITABILITY

TYPE OF PACKAGING & SORTING

RECYCLABLE PLASTIC CONTENT

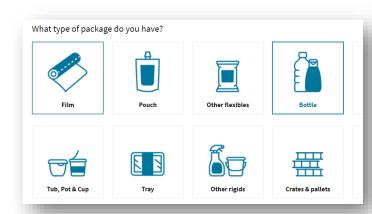
DfR INCOMPATIBILITIES

Verifying that the packaging can be analysed by the Tool, based on its composition

Stream attribution & identification of features with possible impact on the sorting behavior of packaging

Determination of the amount of recoverable and valuable materials

Check of the DfR incompatibilities (guidelines)



What is the net weight of your packaging? 👩	
40 grams	INTERIM RESULT:
What is the net weight of PET in your packaging? ①	(A)
30 grams	ABCDEF
Are other polymers (PE, PP, PS, EPS, PVC, Others)	INTERIM RECYCLABILITY RATE:
present in and/or welded to the bottle's structure?	95.0%
O Yes ● No	
	This class represents the maximal and
Does your bottle contain any polyolefins (PE and/or	theorical recyclability class that your packaging can obtain. This result is
PP) components (e.g., closure, label, sleeve)? 🧿	obtained by mass balance calculation
● Yes ○ No	regarding the amount of plastic and n
	plastic incorporated in the packaging
In which quantity?	design. Indeed, the larger the content one polymer in the packaging, the hig
8 grams	its recyclability rate will be (i.e., the
o Brains	amount of recoverable and valuable

plastic recycled

What colour is the package body?

Transparent clear; transparent light blue (0)

What is the barrier of the package body made of?

× SiOx plasma-coating (0)

What additives does the package body contain?

× No additives (0)

What material are the closures made of?

PE; PP (all with density less than 1 g/cm³) (0)

RecyClass | STEP BY STEP ANALYSIS

EASY-TO-EMPTY INDEX

REACH COMPLIANCE

RECYCLED CONTENT

FINAL RESULTS

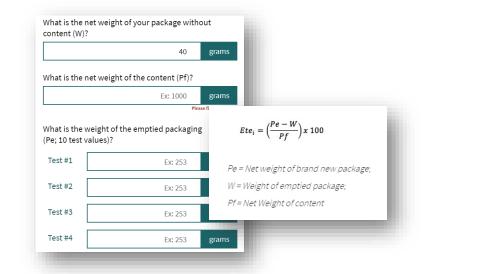
Evaluation of the contamination caused by the residual content

European legislation on chemicals

Bonus grading for the integration of recycled content (does **not** impact the recyclability class)



Summary of your analysis, EU mapping & details on the features which lead to class downgrading





RecyClass FOR BEGINNERS

Demo: Online Tool in practice

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

info@recyclass.eu www.recyclass.eu



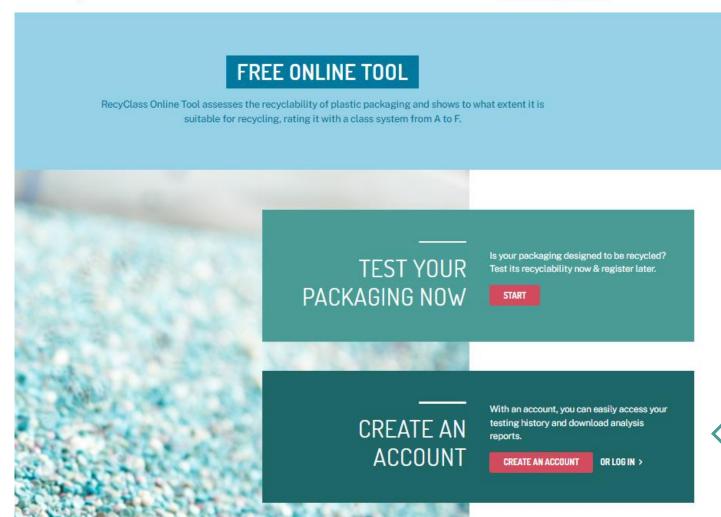




RecyClass | FIRST PAGE: LOGIN

RecyClass Online Tool

New analysis LOGIN



Start a quick analysis without registering.

Create an account, with the access to the reports, the testing history, the Roadmap and the Mapping.

RecyClass | ONLINE TOOL: DASHBOARD

RecyClass Online Tool

 Dashboard
 Guidelines
 FA0
 Mapping
 Roadmap
 NEW ANALYSIS

WELCOME MARTINA

START NEW ANALYSIS

READ THE MANUAL >



Your analysis history

Below you will see a listing of your previous analyses. All corresponding analysis results can be downloaded as a PDF.

Date of the analysis	Name of the analysis	Result	Actions	
2022-07-07 09:20:56	PE film	ABDÇEF	1 2 🗑	
2022-07-0114:13:03	Bottle	ABCDEF	1 2 🗊	
2022-07-0114:09:39	Pouch	ABODEF	1 D 🗊	
2022-06-28 09:34:46	PET tray	ABODEF	1 D 🗊	
2022-06-28 09:30:20	Trial	ABÇDEF	1 2 1	

1 2 3 , Analyses 1-5 of 15

Design for recycling guidelines

History

→ April 2022

PP Natural and Coloured containers

December 2021

HDPE natural and coloured containers. PS coloured containers

September 2021

Tool Methodology revision

June 2021

PP containers (natural and coloured), PE films (coloured and transparent)

SEE ALL GUIDELINES >

Learn more about the packaging features that are currently under investigation by the RecyClass Technical Committees.

ROADMAP

FAQ

Could other types of packaging materials (e.g.,

> aluminium, paper) be evaluated with the
RecyClass Online Tool?

What is the recognition of the RecyClass Online-

- > Tool across Europe and where does the harmonisation stand?
- Can single packaging components as a cap be assessed?

How to use the RecyClass Online-Tool for semi-> finished packaging (e.g., for converters or raw material producers)?

READ THE FULL FAO >

OR CONTACT US >

Thank you for using the RecyClass Online Tool! Help us further improve it by sharing your experience.

LEAVE US A FEEDBACK

RecyClass | ONLINE TOOL: MANUAL

The Manual summarizes all the steps of the assessment, including a detailed description of the Design for Recycling section.

The final result of the Assessment is a class (A-F), which are explained in detail in the Manual.

START NEW ANALYSIS

READ THE MANUAL >

Assessment steps

The analysis is divided into 5 steps

Step 1: Description

The first step aims to name and describe the packaging to be analysed.

Step 2: Suitability

This step ensures that the packaging falls under the scope of the RecyClass Methodology dedicated to plastic packaging.

Step 3: Type of packaging

This step defines which is the type of packaging under analysis to attribute the corresponding Design for Recycling questions & answers.

Step 4: Design for Recycling

This step evaluates the compatibility of the packaging design with its recycling stream and is split into 5 sections explained below.

Step 5: Final results

The last step gathers all results of the analysis, highlighting the areas of improvement, and provides as well a mapping of the current waste management systems in Europe.

Design for Recycling (step 4)

The step is divided into 5 sets of questions

Part 1: Recyclable plastic content

This set is a mass balance calculation to determine the amount of recoverable and valuable plastic in your packaging.

Part 2: Design for Recycling Incompatibilities

In this set, the incompatibilities of your product that affect recycling efficiency and quality of the recyclate are verified.

Part 3: 'Easy to Empty' / 'Easy Access' Index

These indications evaluate the proportion of product that remains in the packaging after it has been emptied.

Part 4: REACH compliance results

This set ensures that no intentionally added substances of very high concern are present in your packaging.

Part 5: Recycled Content

In this set, you are asked how much recycled material your product contains (if any).

RecyClass | ONLINE TOOL: DASHBOARD

Your analysis history Below you will see a listing of your previous analyses. All corresponding analysis results can be downloaded as a PDF. Date of the analysis Name of the analysis Result Actions 2022-09-08 09:55:50 Example 2022-09-06 11:23:05 PE film ABCDEF 2022-07-0114:13:03 **Bottle** 2022-07-0114:09:39 Pouch ABCDEF 2022-06-28 09:34:46 **PET tray**

Analysis history

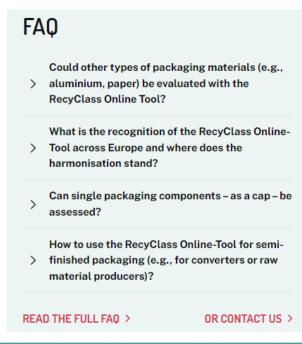
This feature enables users to access all the previously conducted analyses & their respective reports. Analyses can be edited, duplicated, downloaded or deleted.

The report summarizes the result of the analysis & highlights the critical points of the assessment.

Access to the DfR Guidelines, with all the recent updates.



Frequently Asked Questions



RecyClass | ONLINE TOOL: DASHBOARD

RecyClass Online Tool

Dashboard Guidelines FAO Mapping Roadmap NEW ANALYSIS

WELCOME MARTINA

START NEW ANALYSIS

READ THE MANUAL >



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RecyClass | ONLINE TOOL: ROADMAP

Overview of the currently running test campaigns which help generate robust & reliable data to update the Guidelines.

Packaging features under investigation	Guideline(s) concerned	Under testing	Foreseen updates	Timeline	Status
Please make a ▼	Please make a ▼				
Printing inks	PE & PP films	Various inks binders (PU, NC) and amount of inks (wt%)	Possible limitations for some binders & move from surface coverage to printing amount for flexibles	October 2022	Ongoing
Metallisation	PE & PP films	Vacuum-deposited metallisation of co-extruded and laminated structures	Classification of metallisation in the flexible guidelines	November 2022	Ongoing
Labels & adhesives	HDPE & PP containers	Various non-washable labels and adhesives applied on HDPE containers	New recommendations on the use of non-washable adhesives for the coloured HDPE and PP guidelines	September 2022	Finished
PA	PE films	Film structures containing various PA types and contents with and without compatibilizers	New recommendation on PA for the PE flexible guideline	Mid-2022	Finished
Laminating adhesives	PE & PP films	Various chemistries and amount of laminating adhesives	New category on the flexible guidelines and new question on the tool	October 2022	Ongoing



DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS

In case you do several analyses, clear descriptions and comments will later help you to distinguish between the different analysis results.

DISCLAIMER

Design optimisation for its recyclability

RecyClass Tool has been developed and maintained on the basis of laboratory testing and the expertise of European plastics recyclers. Sometimes it is not possible to provide accurate figures and data with scientific background, therefore we choose to include figures based on our experience.

This tool evaluates the technical recyclability of the packaging given the current best available technology, but does not take into account the efficiency of different collection schemes across Member States.

The RecyClass team has signed a non-disclosure agreement to ensure your product design confidentiality. Any kind of individual communication of the report is strictly prohibited without your previous consent. The anonymised global result of your analysis might be used for statistics purposes.

Name of package to be analysed

HDPE bottle

Your comments

Description

Disclaimer on the use of the Online Tool & the option to assign a name and description to the current analysis.



Suitability

IS YOUR PACKAGE GENERALLY SUITABLE FOR THIS ANALYSIS?

The RecyClass tool is only suitable for packaging which:

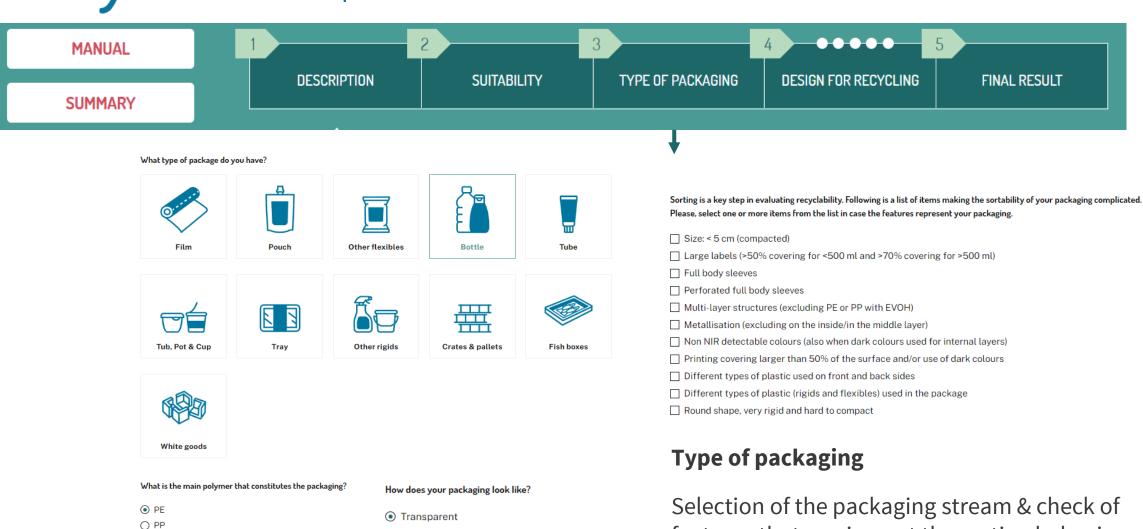
- is made of plastic
- is free from hazardous substances
- does not consist of bio- or oxo-degradable plastics

Plastic packaging must be detectable using state-of-the-art sorting technology.

The RecyClass Tool defines packaging as made of plastic when:

- it consists **predominantly** of plastics, by weight
- more than 50% of the surface is plastic
- and if present, an existing aluminium layer is **not thicker than 5** µ**m** (in case of a multilayer film).

Does your p	ackage consist predominantly of plastic by weight? 🔞
Yes	○ No
Does the sur	rface of your package consist of at least 50% of plastic? ③
Yes	○ No
	lluminium layer e.g. in a multilayer film thicker than 5 μ m, or an aluminium label/sleeve which the user can't remove ng the package? $_{\Im}$
○ Yes	⊚ No
Does your pa	ackage have a surface with a colour containing non detectable carbon black? ③
○ Yes	No No
-	ur packed good considered as a Plant Protection Product or Biocidal Product as defined in the Plant Protection Products o 1107/2009) and Biocidal Product Regulation (No 528/2012)? ③
○ Yes	No
ls your pack	aging containing bio- or oxo-degradable plastics? 🗿
○ Yes	No
Your pack	age is suitable for this analysis.
Please co	ntinue.



Coloured

O PET

Other

PS (except EPS and XPS)

features that can impact the sorting behaviour.



PART 1: RECYCLABLE PLASTIC CONTENT

In this area your packaging is checked for its composition. More information can be found in the RecyClass Recyclability Methodology.

The design compatibility process is carried out to establish the amount of recyclable plastics in the packaging and its ability to replace virgin plastics in new products. Any non-recoverable (non-plastic) materials must be considered and removed from the proportion of recyclable plastics (e.g., inks, EVOH, barriers, adhesives for laminates, fillers, etc.). The class ranking to consider is the following:



Class A





Class B

90-95%





50-70%

PART 2: DESIGN FOR RECYCLING INCOMPATIBILITIES

90-70%

In this area your package is checked for incompatibilities, which influence the efficiency of recycling. Please analyse the recycling guidelines for your product.

Possible changes in interim result from Question area 1:

- at least 1 x area answered LIMITED COMPATIBILITY (-) = downgraded by 1 class
- at least 1 x area answered NEGATIVE (--) = downgraded by 2 classes
- at least 1 x area answered VERY NEGATIVE (---) = downgraded by 3 classes
- at least 1 x area answered DISQUALIFYING (I) = downgraded by 5 classes

Size recommendations for the sorting of a HDPE packaging:

- Item compacted > 5cm. The size of the packaging should not prevent the sortability of the packaging.
- Item compacted < 5cm, A sorting test is recommended, Please refer to the RecyClass Sorting Protocol
- Item compacted < 2cm. Based on the European state of art technologies the packaging will get lost during the sorting steps.

Design for Recycling (step 4)

The step is divided into 5 sets of questions

- Part 1: Recyclable plastic content
 - This set is a mass balance calculation to determine the amount of recoverable and valuable plastic in your packaging.
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- In this set, the incompatibilities of your product that affect recycling efficiency and quality of the recyclate are verified.
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- Part 5: Recycled Content
- In this set, you are asked how much recycled material your product contains (if any).

RecyClass | FINAL RESULT



Final result

Summary of the assessment, with the possibility to download the report & the direct link to the Recyclability
Certification Scheme

YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED YOUR ANALYSIS! Thank you for using the RecyClass analysis tool.

DOWNLOAD YOUR ANALYSIS

SAVE THE ANALYSIS AND DUPLICATE

+ START NEW ANALYSIS

Need more information regarding your result?

Contact our expert to obtain a RecyClass report expert-

Satisfied with your self-assessment?

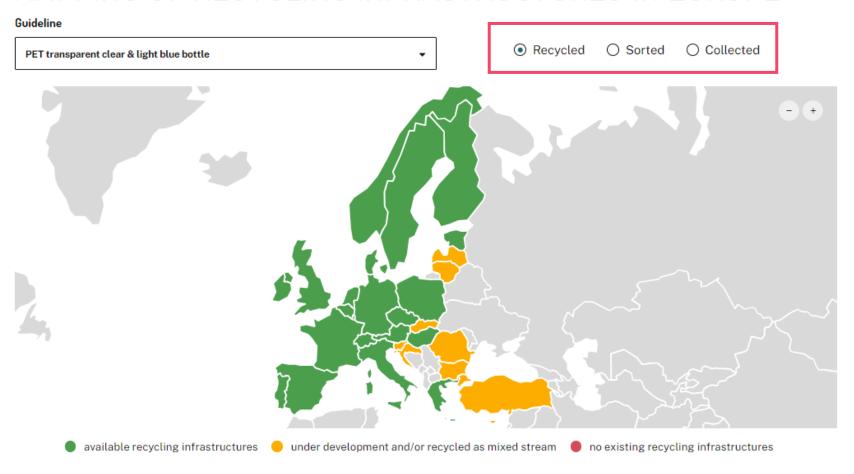
Get certified by our recognized Certification Bodies and claim the recyclability of your packaging.

GET CERTIFIED

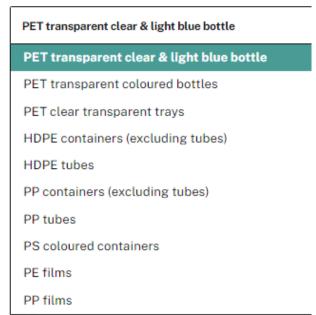
checked.

RecyClass | MAPPING

MAPPING OF RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURES IN EUROPE



Guideline

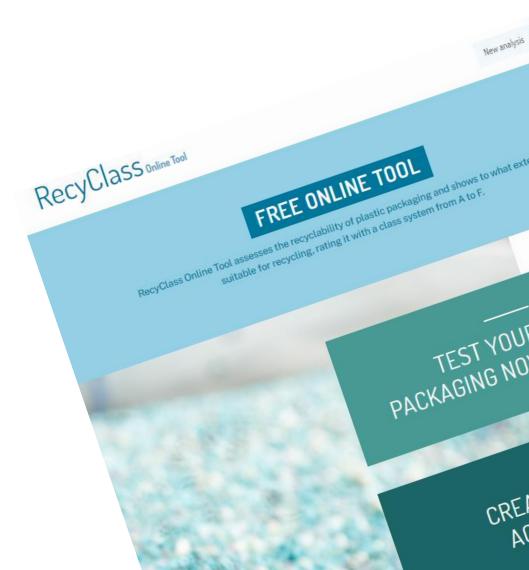


The map gives an overview of the collection, sorting & recycling infrastructures available in Europe, for each packaging stream.

RecyClass | KEY TAKEAWAYS

Start your circular plastic journey today!

- Free-of-charge with unlimited analyses
- Based on a scientific and transparent methodology
- Provides clear recommendations & indications for improvements in recyclability
- Considers the market state-of-play & the latest developing technologies



RecyClass FOR BEGINNERS

Questions & Answers

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

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

info@recyclass.eu www.recyclass.eu







RecyClass FOR BEGINNERS

Thank you for participating!

Save the date for the next webinars:

5 October

14 December

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

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