

Eastman Chemical

RECYCLASS TECHNOLOGY APPROVAL

Brussels, 23 January 2024

DISCLAIMER

RecyClass recognition applies only to Eastman Chemical 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076' technology reported in Annex I. The recyclability assessment therefore does not refer to the testing of a specific packaging using this copolyester resin. Any specific packaging using this copolyester resin would need to be tested individually to demonstrate that the system of resin, adjuvants, label, closure, and printing conforms to the Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PET bottles, and that it is sorted in the PET bottle stream at the state-of-art sorting plants in Europe.

Publication of results of testing of this technology MUST clearly include all the conditions listed in the approval letter. Partial reporting of the conditions is forbidden.

Additionally, any change in the formulation of the technology must be communicated to the Technical Committee which will reassess the approval of the technology.

The RecyClass PET Technical Committee (TC) was requested to carry out an assessment of the technology 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076' by Eastman Chemical to verify its impact on the quality of recycled PET packaging.

The technology is a PET copolyester with a lower crystallisation rate than standard PET resin. The innovation was tested as such, and not blended with a PET control matrix. The test was carried with no decoration or printing.

According to the results that were obtained from the laboratory test performed by PTI-Europe, carried out as per an adapted version of the Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PET bottles (version 1.0)¹, the technology 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076' is **fully compatible with PET bottles recycling**.

Based on these results, RecyClass acknowledges that Eastman Chemical 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076' will have no impact on the current European PET bottles recycling and provided that the full packaging using this resin is designed under the following conditions²:

- a) The bottle is made of PET;
- b) This copolyester resin is used for non-beverage applications;

¹ [RecyClass Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PET bottles](#)

² PET bottle designed under conditions other than those indicated need to be tested to assess their compliance with RecyClass Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PET bottles.

- c) Any additional component or features (inks, adhesives, ...) of the packaging must be compliant with the corresponding RecyClass Design for Recycling Guidelines³.

RecyClass concludes that Eastman Chemical 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076' technology as per current market conditions and knowledge, is fully compatible with the existing European industrial recycling processes for PET bottles. The plastic generated by the recycling process may be used in high quality applications such as PET injected preform up to 12.5 % concentration⁴.

In regard to RecyClass Recyclability Certification, the present full compatibility with PET bottles recycling delivered to 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076' technology, means that a PET packaging based on this technology, as mentioned in the aforementioned conditions, will not be penalized with a recyclability class deduction. Moreover, the amount of recyclable PET will impact the final recyclability class obtained during Recyclability Certification and should be kept above 95 % or 90 % in the final packaging to maximise chances to get a Recyclability Certificate with a class A or B, respectively⁵. Also, it is noteworthy that the presence of additional packaging features, like labels, adhesives, inks or barrier material, could additionally impact the certification process.

Note that, in addition to 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076', Eastman Chemical developed other similar grades containing recycled content, such as 'Cristal™ Renew Copolyester EN076-25', 'Cristal™ Renew Copolyester EN076-30', 'Cristal™ Renew Copolyester EN076-50' and 'Cristal™ Renew Copolyester EN076-100', that are also considered as **fully compatible with PET bottles recycling** stream under the similar conditions aforementioned for 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076'.

About RecyClass

RecyClass is a non-profit, cross-industry initiative advancing recyclability, bringing transparency to the origin of plastic waste and establishing a harmonized approach toward recycled plastic calculation & traceability in Europe. RecyClass develops Recyclability Evaluation Protocols and scientific testing methods for innovative plastic packaging materials which serve as the base for the Design for Recycling Guidelines and the RecyClass Online Tool. RecyClass established Recyclability Certifications for plastic packaging, Recycling Process Certification and Recycled Plastics Traceability Certification for plastic products.

[RecyClass – Plastic Future is Circular](#)

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³ [Design for Recycling Guidelines of RecyClass](#)

⁴ Technology tested according to the RecyClass [Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PET bottles](#)

⁵ [RecyClass Recyclability Certification](#)

Annex I



Figure 1. 'Cristal™ Copolyester EN076' technology by Eastman Chemical.