

Illycaffè spa

RECYCLASS TECHNOLOGY APPROVAL

Brussels, 10 February 2026

DISCLAIMER

RecyClass recognition applies only to illycaffè spa 'Iperespresso Coffee Capsule' technology reported in Annex I. The recyclability assessment therefore does not refer to the testing of a specific packaging using this innovation. Any specific packaging using this innovation would need to be assessed individually to demonstrate that the system of resin, adjuvants, label, closure, and printing conforms to the RecyClass Design for Recycling Guidelines or Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP containers, and that it is sorted in the PP rigid 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 PP Technical Committee was requested to carry out an assessment of the technology 'Iperespresso Coffee Capsule' by illycaffè spa to verify its impact on the quality of recycled PP containers. Illycaffè spa submitted this packaging in the context of the Recap project¹.

The technology is a PP-based injected coffee capsule. The coffee capsules contain a SEBS septum and a paper filter, representing 1.8 wt% and 0.4 wt% of the total weight of the packaging respectively.

According to the results that were obtained from the laboratory tests done by Interzero, carried out as per the Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP containers (version 6.0), 'Iperespresso Coffee Capsule' technology is fully compatible with coloured PP recycling.

Based on these results, RecyClass acknowledges that illycaffè spa 'Iperespresso Coffee Capsule' technology will have no impact on the current European coloured PP containers recycling and provided that the full packaging is designed under the following conditions:

- a) The container is made of PP;
- b) The SEBS septum represents 1.8 wt% of the total weight of the packaging, or less;
- c) The paper filter represents 0.4 wt% of the total weight of the packaging, or less;
- d) Any additional packaging component is made of PP;
- e) The density of the final packaging is lower than 1 g/cm³;
- f) The capsules are collected and sorted in the PP stream;

¹ <https://www.progettorecap.it/>

- g) Any additional component or features (e.g., inks, adhesives, etc.) of the packaging must be compliant with the corresponding RecyClass Design for Recycling Guidelines².

RecyClass concludes that illycaffè spa 'Iperespresso Coffee Capsule' technology as per current market conditions and knowledge, is fully compatible with the existing European industrial recycling processes for coloured PP containers. Indeed, the recycled plastic generated after the recycling process was successfully tested in injection moulding applications up to 100 % innovation³.

In regard to RecyClass Recyclability Certification, the present full compatibility with coloured PP containers recycling delivered to illycaffè spa, 'Iperespresso Coffee Capsule' technology, means that a coloured packaging containing this technology, as mentioned in the aforementioned conditions will not be penalised with any recyclability class deduction. Nevertheless, the amount of recyclable PP will impact the final recyclability class obtained during Recyclability Certification and should be kept above 95 % or 80 % in the final packaging to maximise chances to get a Recyclability Certificate with a Class A or B, respectively⁴. Also, it is noteworthy that the presence of additional packaging features, like label, adhesive, or barrier material, could impact the certification process.

About RecyClass

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

[RecyClass – Plastic Future is Circular](#)

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² [Design for Recycling Guidelines – RecyClass](#)

³ [Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP containers](#)

⁴ [RecyClass Recyclability Certification](#)

Annex I



Figure 1. 'Iperespresso Coffee Capsule' technology by illycaffè spa.