| | CATEGORY | FULL COMPATIBILITY | LIMITED COMPATIBILITY | NON COMPATIBILITY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Material Composition (amount of PET + PO attachments in the packaging)** | A ≥ 95 %, B ≥ 80 % | C ≥ 70 % | Non-recyclable < 70 % |
| | **Description (Testing Protocol)** | Materials that passed the testing protocols with negative impact* OR materials that have not been tested (yet), but are known to be acceptable in PET recycling | Materials that passed the testing protocols if certain conditions are met OR materials that have not been tested (yet), but pose a low risk of interfering with PET recycling | Materials that failed the testing protocols OR materials that have not been tested (yet), but pose a high risk of interfering with PET 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 non-recyclable | Non-recyclable |
| MAIN BODY | **Materials**** | PET | | PLA; PVC; PS; PETG; PC; PBT |
| MAIN BODY | **Colours** | Transparent light colours | Transparent dark colours | Opaque; Fluorescence; Metallic |
| MAIN BODY | **Size** | | | ≤ 4 cm (compacted); > 5-liter content |
| MAIN BODY | **Product Residues (Easy-to-Empty Index)** | A if the index is ≤ 5 %; B if the index is ≤ 10 % | C if the index is ≤ 15 % | Index is > 15 % |
| MAIN BODY | **Barriers** | SiOx plasma coating; Carbon plasma-coating; PA-MXD6 multilayer with ≤ 6 % PA-MXD6 and no tie layers; PTN alloy | EVOH multilayer with ≤ 3 % EVOH and no tie layers; PA-MXD6 multilayer with ≤ 6 % PA-MXD6 including tie layers; Monolayer PA-MXD6 blend; PGA multilayer | EVOH multilayer with > 3 % EVOH and no tie layers; PA-MXD6 multilayer with > 6 % PA-MXD6 or with tie layers |
| MAIN BODY | **Additives** | Titanium Nitride reheat additive | UV stabilisers; Acetaldehyde (AA) blockers; Optical brighteners; Oxygen scavengers | Carbon black & Ferrous Phosphate reheat additive; Bio-/oxo-/photodegradable additives; Nanocomposites |
| ATTACHMENTS | **Closure Systems** | PE (with density ≤1 g/cm³); PP (with density ≤1 g/cm³); Clear and coloured transparent PET closures (with no additives or only approved additives) | | Opaque PET closures; Materials and blends with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g. highly filled PE, metals,...); Non-detaching or welded closures |
| ATTACHMENTS | **Liners, Seals and Valves** | PE; PE + EVA; PP; TPO (all with density ≤ 1 g/cm³); TPS (with density ≤ 0.95 g/cm³) | Foamed PET (with a density ≤ 0.95 g/cm³); Floatable silicone with density ≤0.95 g/cm³ | Materials with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g., PVC, silicone, metals) |
| ATTACHMENTS | **Other Components** | Base cup, handles or other components which are separated by grinding and float/sink – all with density ≤ 1 g/cm³ | | Materials with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g. metals, RFID tags); Non-detaching or welded components |
| DECORATION*** | **Facestock Label Materials** | PE; PP; OPP (all with density ≤ 1 g/cm³) | EPS; foamed PET; Lightly metallized labels (all with density ≤ 0.95 g/cm³); Paper labels without fibre losses | Labels which hinder the recognition of the underlaying PET-polymer (e.g. too large, metallized, heavily inked); Labels with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g., PVC; PS; PET; PETG; PLA); Metallized labels; Non-detaching or welded labels; Paper labels with fibre loss; Foamed PETG labels (even with density ≤ 1 g/cm³); PET labels with washable inks |
| DECORATION*** | **Adhesives for Labels** | Alkali/water releasable adhesive at 70-90 °C | | Alkali/water soluble adhesive; alkali/water non-releasable adhesive at 70-90 °C |
| DECORATION*** | **Sleeves** | PE; PP; OPP (all with density ≤ 1 g/cm³) | Full sleeves translucent for NIR detection in PE; PP; OPP (all with density ≤1 g/cm³); EPS; foamed PET; LDPET (all with density ≤ 0.95 g/cm³)<br><br>INTERIM: Twin-perforated sleeves for household and personal care conform guidelines by EPBP | Sleeves which hinder the recognition of the underlaying PET-polymer (e.g., too large, metallized, heavily inked); Sleeves with density > 1 g/cm³ (e.g., PVC; PS; PET; PETG); Foamed PETG sleeves (even with density ≤ 1 g/cm³); PET sleeves with washable inks |
| DECORATION*** | **Tamper evidence wrap** | PE; PP; OPP (all with density ≤ 1 g/cm³) | EPS; foamed PET; LDPET (all with density ≤ 0.95 g/cm³) | Materials with density >1 g/cm³ (e.g. PVC; PS; PET; PETG); Metallized materials; Foamed PETG (even with a density ≤ 1 g/cm³); PET with washable inks |
| DECORATION*** | **Inks** | Non-bleeding (Retentive)**** inks compliant with EuPIA Charter<br>Inks applied on removable labels/sleeves | Production or expiry date (direct printing) | Bleeding Inks;<br>Inks non-compliant with EuPIA Charter;<br>Metallic inks; Washable inks;<br>PVC co- and terpolymer binders; Any other chlorinated binders |
| DECORATION*** | **Other Decorative Technologies** | Laser marking for production and expiry dates | | Any other direct printing |

Disclaimer: Use of recycled content does not impact the recyclability assessment.
*Approved technologies can be found here.
**Polymer resin can be either fossil- or bio-based, virgin or recycled.
***Decorative technologies must not hinder the recognition of the underlaying PET-polymer. Features as size, print, mass colouration and/or barrier might require to perform a Sorting Evaluation Protocol. Known misleading features are listed on the RecyClass Methodology and the following size indications can be considered to ensure the recognition of PET:
- Size of non-PET surfaces on containers > 500 ml: ≤ 70% coverage
- Size of non-PET surfaces on containers ≤ 500 ml: ≤ 50% coverage
****Non-bleeding (Retentive) behavior can be checked using the RecyClass REP-PETbot-03 protocol

***Last updated: March 2026***