



**European Commission**  
**DG Environment**

Sustainable Production and Consumption

# Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste

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## **Why a Community Packaging Directive?**

- Discussion since the 1980s
- Little effect of 1985 Directive on Liquid Beverage Containers
- Introduction of ambitious legislation in some Member States
- Internal Market problems with large flows of secondary material



**Objectives**  
*(Article 1)*

1. High level of environmental protection
2. Functioning of the internal market



**Scope**  
**(Article 2)**

All packaging  
placed on the market of the Community  
and all packaging waste.



## Prevention

- **Essential requirements (*Art. 9 and Annex II*)**
  - All packaging put on the market must comply with the essential requirements of Annex II:
    - quantitative and qualitative prevention
    - packaging must be reusable or recoverable
- **Heavy metal limits for packaging (*Art. 11*)**
  - 100 ppm for the sum of Pb, Cd, Hg and CrVI
    - Exemptions for recycled plastic crates and pallets (Decision 1999/177/EC)
    - Exemptions for recycled glass (Decision 2001/171/EC)
- **National measures (*Art. 4*)**



## **Harmonized standards**

- Harmonized standards adopted by CEN in 2004 and published in the Official Journal in 2005.
- Compliance with the standards gives an automatic presumption of conformity with the essential requirements.



**Reuse**  
**(Article 5)**

“Member States may encourage reuse systems of packaging, which can be reused in an environmentally sound manner, in conformity with the Treaty.”



**2001 targets**  
*(Article 6)*

- Recovery or incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery: **50-65%**
- Recycling: **25-45%** (min. 15% per material)





## 2008 targets (Article 6)

- Recovery or incineration at waste incineration plants with energy recovery: **min. 60%**
- Recycling: **55-80%**
  - Glass 60%
  - Paper/board 60%
  - Metals 50%
  - Plastics 22.5%
  - Wood 15%



**Return, collection and recovery systems**  
**(Article 7)**

Member States must ensure that systems are set up for the return and / or collection of used packaging so that it is effectively reused, recovered or recycled.

- *Open to participation of economic operators*
- *Open to participation of the competent authorities*
- *Non-discriminatory to imported products*
- *Avoid barriers to trade or distortions of competition*



## Marking and identification system (Article 8)

- Currently **no obligatory Community marking system** (earlier Commission proposal was withdrawn)
- Identification system (Decision 97/129/EC)

Voluntary symbols:



“Moebius loop”



“Green Dot”



**Information systems**  
*(Article 12)*

- Member States shall establish databases on packaging and packaging waste to enable monitoring of the implementation of the objectives of this Directive.
- Information on:
  - magnitude, characteristics, and evolution of packaging and packaging waste flows,
  - toxicity or danger of packaging materials
- Decision 2005/270/EC establishing the format of the database system



**Reporting requirements**  
*(Articles 12 and 17)*

- Packaging data within 18 months after each calendar year.
- Reports on the implementation of the Directive according to Directive 91/692/EC and Decision 97/662/EC within 9 months after a three year period.



**Waste management plans**  
**(Article 14)**

National waste management plans to include  
a specific chapter on the management  
of packaging and packaging waste.



## **Next Steps**

- Commission report on the implementation of the Packaging Directive.
- Any possible changes of the provisions of the Packaging Directive to be discussed in the framework of the Thematic Strategy on Waste Prevention and Recycling.



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**Thank you for your attention!**

