

The new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Background

The new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) has been approved by the EU Parliament and Council of the EU. It was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 22 January 2025 and will enter into force on the 20th day following its publication (11 February 2025). Its general date of application is 18 months after, also when the existing Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation Directive (PPWD) will be repealed. The full legal text in all EU languages can be found [here](#).

The rules are horizontal, meaning they apply to all sectors using packaging or packaging waste, hence there are a number of areas of impact for businesses in the boating industry too. In order to ensure awareness and understanding in the industry, this guidance has been put together based on the legislation and feedback from the EU Commission.

2. Summary

The rules of the PPWR aim to minimise the quantities of packaging and waste generated while lowering the use of primary raw materials and fostering the transition to a circular, sustainable and competitive economy. By moving to a Regulation rather than Directive, it becomes directly and uniformly applicable in all EU countries.

The PPWR establishes a new set of requirements in line with Europe's waste rules that cover the entire packaging life cycle – from product design to waste handling. It aims to:

- Prevent and reduce packaging waste, including through more reuse and refill systems.
- Make all packaging on the EU market recyclable in an economically viable way by 2030.
- Safely increase the use of recycled plastics in packaging.
- Decrease the use of virgin materials in packaging and put the sector on track to climate neutrality by 2050.

The new rules include:

- **Restrictions on certain single-use plastics**
- Minimising the **weight and volume** of packaging and avoiding **unnecessary** packaging
- **2030 and 2040 targets** for a minimum percentage of recycled content in packaging
- Minimising **substances of concern**, including restrictions on packaging containing **per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS)** if they exceed certain thresholds

3. Impact on boating industry

Horizontal requirements should be reviewed by businesses in order to understand compliance measures

necessary. Based on feedback from the EBI Executive Committee, the EBI Office has requested guidance from the EU Commission on particular aspects for the boating industry.

3.1. General impact on all products

The legislation is horizontal and not sector-specific covering, with only a few exceptions, all packaging and packaging waste. This will therefore impact almost all components and products packaged in the boating industry.

This Regulation applies to all packaging, regardless of the material used, and to all packaging waste, whether such waste is used in or originates from industry, other manufacturing, retail or distribution, offices, services or households.

‘packaging’ means an item, irrespective of the materials from which it is made, that is intended to be used by an economic operator for the containment, protection, handling, delivery or presentation of products to another economic operator or to an end-user, and that can be differentiated by packaging format based on its function, material and design, including [...]

This then leads to requirements for the entire life cycle of packaging as regards environmental sustainability and labelling, to allow its placing on the market. It establishes requirements for extended producer responsibility, packaging waste prevention, such as the reduction of unnecessary packaging and the reuse or refill of packaging, as well as collection and treatment, including recycling, of packaging waste.

3.2. Specific scenarios for the boating industry

Sources: PPWR, EU Commission feedback

<p>Are covers, shrink wrapping or other pieces of equipment used for transport of boats covered by the PPWR?</p>	<p>Based on the definitions in the PPWR, covers, shrink wrapping or other pieces of equipment used for transport are in the scope of the Regulation. This is based on the definition of ‘transport packaging’.</p> <p><i>(6) ‘transport packaging’ means packaging conceived so as to facilitate the handling and transport of one or more sales units or a grouping of sales units, in order to prevent damage to the product from handling and transport, but excludes road, rail, ship and air containers;</i></p> <p>This is the case for B2B and B2C transport. However, there might be some differences in legal obligations, in particular as regards reuse targets. This means that the producers of these materials will have to comply with the provisions of the legislation.</p>
<p>Are covers, wrapping</p>	<p>Based on the definition of packaging, boat covers used to protect</p>

applied or other pieces of equipment used during the manufacturing process covered by the PPWR?	parts of the boat during application of paint, resin infusion, or other manufacturing processes are not covered by the PPWR.
Are covers, shrink wrapping or other pieces of equipment used in drydock or during winterisation covered by the PPWR?	Packaging, in the form of straps, covers and wrappings are used only for stability purposes or during winterisation, and no transportation is involved are not covered by the PPWR.

4. Further information:

The EU Commission provides some further information on its website: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/packaging-waste_en

The recording of an EU Commission webinar on the PPWR can be found here: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/events/webinar-new-packaging-and-packaging-waste-regulation-ppwr-2024-12-16_en

In case of any open questions by boating industry stakeholders, please contact the EBI Office.