

The correct grouping of packaging materials

A summary of the most important information

According to the Packaging Act, every first distributor of packaged products in Germany is obliged to report the packaging quantities correctly to the Central Agency ("Zentrale Stelle") and moreover to participate in a dual system.

→ The aim of the Packaging Act is to ensure that all packaging is recycled at a legally prescribed rate depending on the used materials, so that the recyclable materials remain in the cycle.

Glass

Typical glass packaging (colourless or coloured) is e.g. glass for food, non-returnable bottles for beverages, pharmaceuticals, perfume bottles or cosmetic jars.



DOESN'T count as glass packaging:

Lids for glass jars and bottles, corks.
Caps and Lids that can be manually separated from the glass must be separately assigned to the corresponding packaging material and reported.



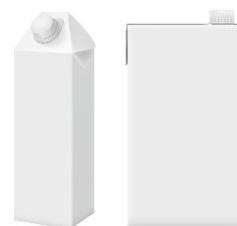
Paper, Paperboard, Cardboard ("PPK")

Typical packaging made of paper, paperboard, cardboard are folding boxes, paper bags, shoe or shipping boxes.



DOESN'T count as "PPK" packaging:

Composite packaging such as Tetra Paks, coated "PPK"-packaging where the coating is > 5 % of the total weight, e.g. chocolate bars or frozen foods.



(Ferrous) Metals

Typical packaging made of ferrous metals such as tinfoil, e.g. food cans. An essential feature of ferrous metals is that they are magnetic.



DOESN'T count as packaging from ferrous metal:

For example screw lids made of ferrous metals for glass jars (e.g. tinfoil) for which the coating is > 5 % of the lid weight. **ATTENTION:** Such screw lids shall be classified as other composite packaging.



Aluminium

Typical aluminium packaging includes spray cans and tubes. Unlike ferrous metals, aluminium is not magnetic.



DOESN'T count as aluminium packaging:

For example aerosol cans with a volume of less than 400ml, crisps packaging, aluminium (screw) lids for e.g. yoghurt or margarine cups or wine bottles for which the coating or seal is > 5 % of the cap or lid weight. **ATTENTION:** Such screw lids shall be classified as other composite packaging.



Plastics

Plastics include packaging made of e.g. PET, PP, HDPE, LDPE, PS, PA, EPS expanded polystyrene (trade name Styropor) or plastic combinations as well as biodegradable or compostable plastics (e.g. PLA).

Typical plastic packaging includes bags, foils, trays, shampoo bottles, bottles for detergents and plastic tubes.



DOESN'T count as plastic packaging:

Composite packaging made of plastic and e.g. PPK or aluminium such as tablet blisters or other blister packs. These shall be classified and reported under other composite packaging.



DOESN'T count as plastic packaging:

E.g. Aluminium or composite lids for yoghurt pots. These must be assigned separately to the respective materials thus be reported as such.



Material combinations don't count as composite packaging, if:

Packaging that consists of different types of material and which cannot be separated by hand, if one of the used materials accounts for > 95 % of the weight. The weight of both materials is then assigned to the main material.

Typical packaging that falls under this category is, for example, (preserving) jars with PPK labels. These are completely assigned to the material type glass with their total weight, thus reported as such. However, as it can be manually separated from the glass, the lid of a (preserving) jar must be assigned separately to the respective material and reported as such.



Material combinations count as composite packaging, if:

Packaging that consists of different types of material which cannot be separated by hand and of which **no** type of material accounts for > 95 % of the total weight.

Composite packaging can be classified either as 'beverage carton packaging' or 'other composite packaging'. As which exactly can be found in the following two sections.

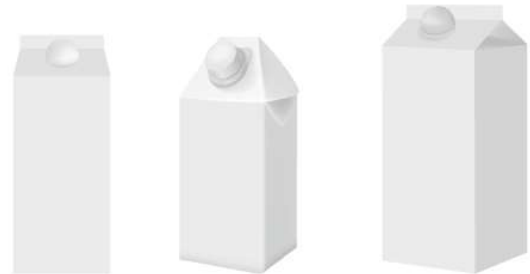


Beverage carton packaging

According to the Packaging Act, "packaging made of different types of material which cannot be separated by hand, none of which exceeds 95% by mass and the contents of it are intended for consumption as a beverage".

These consist of cardboard, plastic and partly aluminium - e.g. Tetra Pak. It should be noted that only packaging for beverages is to be assigned to this type of material and reported below it.

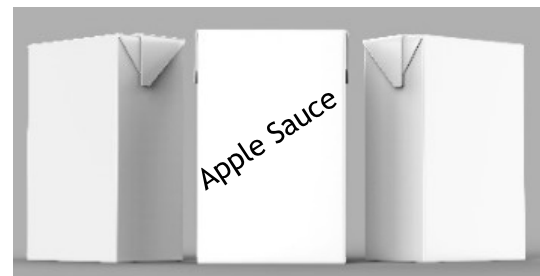
Typical beverage carton packaging are, for example, Tetra Paks with milk, buttermilk, juice or drinking yoghurt.



DOESN'T count as beverage carton packaging:

Packaging made of the same material which contains pasty foods such as apple sauce, tomato sauce, sweet cream, condensed milk, other sauces and pet food. Such products must be classified as other composite packaging, thus reported under other composite packaging.

Plastic lids, e.g. from Tetra Paks, which can be manually separated, also don't fall under the category of beverage carton packaging.



Other composite packaging

Packaging which is made of different types of material which cannot be separated by hand and of which no material exceeds 95% by mass and the contents are NOT intended for consumption as a drink.

Typical other composite packaging:

Other composite materials include composite materials which are made of at least two different materials which are bound together, such as tablet blisters, aluminium aerosol cans up to a volume of 400ml, (food) can lids with a coating of > 5 % of the total weight of the lid, sleeves of oil or wine bottles with a coating of > 5 % of the total weight of the sleeve.

It should be noted that other composite packaging also includes composite packaging which contains pasty foods such as applesauce or tomato sauce, as well as pet food, e.g. Tetra Pak with sauces, applesauce, sweet cream, condensed milk, cat milk, etc.



DOESN'T count as other composite packaging

Beverage carton packaging whose contents are intended for consumption as a beverage - e.g. milk in Tetra Pak. The same applies to packaging made of various materials that can be separated by hand.



Other materials

Typical for other materials are cotton, wood, natural cork, rubber or ceramics.

Typical packaging made of other materials are the corks of wine bottles, wooden boxes for Camembert and ceramic bottles for e.g. fruit brandy.



DOESN'T count as packaging from other materials:

Biodegradable plastics from PLA; compostable plastics or plastics from organic base materials. These must be classified as plastics, thus be reported as such.

Packaging made of groundwood pulp/fibre castings (e.g. egg cartons) also don't fall under the category of other materials. These are to be classified and reported under paper, paperboard, cardboard.



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