



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Consolidation of Packaging Regulations consultation

**Consolidation of The Producer Responsibility
Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007
(as amended)**

Summary of responses

December 2016



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About this document

This document summarises the responses to the government consultation which ran between 23 March 2016 and 17 May 2016 on Defra's draft consolidation of the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 (the PWR 2007). It also details next steps for this work.

This document provides a summary of the responses received. It does not attempt to repeat the background information given in the consultation paper and only provides a limited amount of context for the proposals and related questions. Please refer to the [consultation document](#) for detailed information.

Consultation questions

We sought comments on the following aspects of the consolidation:

- Is it clear?
- Is it logically structured?
- Is there a clear narrative and does it flow coherently?
- How readable is it?
- Does it use plain English and avoid the use of acronyms?
- Is it brief and to the point?

Summary of responses: group breakdown

A total of 8 responses were received to the consultation.

Table 1: Number of responses by broad category of respondent

Type of organisation	Number of responses
Packaging Producers Compliance Scheme	7
Individual	1

Summary of consultation responses and next steps

Three respondents generally welcomed the consolidated draft as clearer and better structured, notably allowing for the responsibilities of different actors (i.e. packaging producers, reprocessors or compliance schemes) to be more easily identified. However, some made the point that, given the extent of the amendments, a number of areas needed to be scrutinised further, to ensure that the consolidation would not introduce any change in the policy intention.

We received more than 80 comments relating to specific schedules or regulations. A particular area of concern was Schedule 3 (Amounts and Processes) in the consolidated regulations, which details how to calculate producer recovery and recycling obligations. Two respondents were also generally concerned that the consolidated draft would need to be consistent with the Northern Ireland regulations. A number of comments also focused on definitions, such as for “supply” in Schedule 1 or “recyclable material” in regulation 2.

As originally intended, an expert group made of representatives from the waste sector, the UK, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland governments, as well as their respective enforcement agencies (EA, SEPA, NRW and NIEA) was set up after the consultation closed to review any detailed suggested changes. This group has met a number of times to discuss the draft consolidation in more detail with us. These discussions have made significant progress but are still ongoing.

As explained in the consultation document, we had already [consulted on changes to plastic and glass packaging targets](#). The outcome of that consultation was that the targets should be amended. This has to be done through amending the packaging regulations. In the interests of efficiency, our intention was to make those amendments as part of this consolidation of the regulations, if time permitted. The aim was to lay the consolidated regulations during the second half of 2016 with a view to them – and the new plastic and glass targets - coming into force in autumn 2016.

As discussions on the details of the draft consolidation are still ongoing, we have decided to delay the process for the time being; we intend to concentrate on amending the regulations to ensure that the new plastic and glass targets come into force by the end of this year, which is our priority.

We aim to continue with work on consolidation of the regulations as and when policy, legal and parliamentary time allows.

Annex 1: List of respondents

A member of the public

Ecosurety Ltd

Perchards Ltd

REPIC Ltd

Synergy Compliance Ltd

The Environment Exchange Ltd

ToddPAK Ltd

Valpak Ltd