



PPP MATERIAL TYPE GUIDE



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Date: June 20, 2025

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PPP Material Guide Update Log

Version Date	Summary of Updates
February 24, 2024	Original guide release
June 20, 2024	<p>No changes to material guide; newspaper and magazines remain designated PPP materials. Updated regulatory amendment exempts small newspaper and magazine producers contributing less than 200 tonnes per year from fees, but they are still required to register and report as a producer.</p> <p>Order in Council 217/2024</p>
June 20, 2025	<p>Updates under the Flexible Plastics category effective April 1, 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusion of flexible plastic packaging-like products (PLPs) used by households and ordinarily intended for the containment, protection or handling of food (i.e. cling wrap, sandwich bags, freezer bags) and is not used as packaging when it is supplied to the end user. Order in Council 69/2025 Inclusion of recycling bags (blue bags)

This document provides compliance guidance to producers on single-use products, packaging, and paper products (PPP) that they are required to report by material type under the *Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation*, AR 194/2022 (EPR Regulation).

The following table provides definitions and examples of included PPP by material type.

Where a single-use product, packaging, or paper product might be made up of two or more different material types and certain components of the package or product constitute a small proportion of the entire package or product, producers should apply the component threshold rule in the Verification Procedure to determine in which category the product or packaging should be reported.

Definitions and examples of single-use products, packaging, and paper products that must be reported by producers who supply to Alberta consumers

	Definition	Included	Excluded
Paper	Paper comprised any type of cellulosic fibre source including but not limited to wood, wheat, rice, cotton, bananas, eucalyptus, bamboo, hemp, and sugar cane (bagasse) fibre sources	Paper packaging¹ includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> corrugated cardboard boxes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pizza boxes direct mail boxes other product boxes gable top containers aseptic containers paper laminates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spiral wound containers for frozen juice, chips, cookie dough microwave paper container paper cups, drinks and bowls pet food bags polycoat containers muffin or sandwich wraps kraft paper (non-laminated) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> packaging intended to be used for long-term storage or protection of a durable product for at least five years such as vinyl record covers, boxboard used to contain, store and transport pieces of a board game or puzzle packaging not made primarily from glass, plastic, metal, paper, or any combination therein such as jute bags, burlap fabric, cloth bags, wood pallets, wood crates, butcher string, organza bags materials designated under any other extended producer responsibility regulation in Alberta such as lubricating oil containers, paint containers, pesticide containers*, corrosive product containers**, flammable product containers**, toxic product containers

¹ Packaging includes packaging used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, and presentation of goods.

	Definition	Included	Excluded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ flour, sugar, oatmeal • kraft paper bags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ prescription bags ○ non-laminated paper grocery or food delivery bags • boxboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ cereal, tissue, or shoe boxes ○ rolls used toilet paper, toweling, tin foil ○ clothing tags • other paper packaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ tissue paper used for packing ○ egg cartons ○ take-out trays 	<p>*does not include insect repellent, sanitizer, disinfectant, and antimicrobial containers</p> <p>**does not include down-the-drain product containers or masonry product packaging</p>
		<p>Paper products² includes, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspapers • newsprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ flyers, brochures, inserts, circulars, promotional information • catalogues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ retail products, coupon, real estate, promotional, automotive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bound reference books, literary books and text books • paper products that by virtue of their anticipated use, could become unsafe or unsanitary to recycle such as toilet paper, paper towelling, napkins, wipes, cotton buds • costume wear other comparable items that might contaminant the recycling stream such as wigs, masks, shoes, outfits, hair accessories, keepsakes, jewelry, glitter

² Paper products include printed and unprinted paper.

	Definition	Included	Excluded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ phone, business • newspapers • magazines • posters, calendars, greeting cards, and envelopes • file folders • plates, bowls, cups, and straws • moving boxes • gift wrapping/boxes and tissue paper • decorations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ streamers ○ banners ○ hanging decorations ○ pinwheels ○ piñatas ○ paper hats ○ paper signs ○ paper tablecloths • paper used for copying, writing or any other general use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ office paper ○ correspondence ○ notebooks • other printed materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ bank or utility statements ○ product user guides and warranties ○ colouring and activity books 	

	Definition	Included	Excluded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ printed information within packaged products ○ lottery tickets, scratch cards, fundraising tickets ○ register, debit and credit card receipts ○ transportation, transit, recreational guides, and schedules ○ booklets ○ stickers or sticky labels ○ paper of any other description. 	
Rigid Plastics	<p>Rigid plastics means moulded plastic</p> <p>Plastic is a broad category of synthetic chemicals (called polymers) that can have different sources, physical properties and additives</p>	<p>Rigid plastic packaging includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bottles, jugs, and jars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ laundry detergent ○ household cleaning products ○ shampoo and body wash ○ salad dressing and condiments ○ dish soap and mouthwash • Thermoforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ salad and egg containers ○ food trays ○ yogurt containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • packaging intended to be reused or refilled for at least five years such as water bottles, food containers • packaging intended to be used for long-term storage or protection of a durable product for at least five years such as CD/DVD cases, power tool cases, carrying case for electronics • packaging not made primarily from glass, plastic, metal, paper, or any combination therein such as jute bags, burlap fabric, cloth bags, wood pallets, wood crates, butcher string, organza bags • materials designated under the Designated Material Recycling and Management Regulation (AR

	Definition	Included	Excluded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ muffin or cake containers • expanded polystyrene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ meat trays ○ beverage cups ○ packing peanuts ○ cushion packaging ○ plastic eggs cartons • non-expanded polystyrene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clamshell containers ○ take-out containers ○ cups, plates, bowls ○ yogurt containers ○ service packaging beverage cups and plates ○ clear rigid trays • other packaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ blister packaging ○ candy dispensers ○ plastic hangers provided as service packaging ○ tubs and lids ○ tubes ○ inserts and moulds in packaging for items like small appliances and tools ○ pails ○ garden pots and seedling trays 	<p>93/2004) (paint containers, oil material containers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • materials designated under the EPR Regulation Part 2 (pesticide containers*, corrosive product containers**, flammable product containers**, toxic product containers) <p>*does not include insect repellent, sanitizer, disinfectant, and antimicrobial containers</p> <p>**does not include down-the-drain product containers or masonry product packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rigid or flexible plastics made from certified compostable plastic or biodegradable plastics (i.e., a type of plastic that is designed to degrade in a defined period of time and under specific conditions as a result of natural biological activity into materials found in nature), such as shopping bags, coffee pods, cups, bowls, plates, utensils
		<p>Rigid plastic single-use products include, but are not limited to:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costume wear and other comparable items that might contaminant the

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straws • stir sticks • utensils • plates, cups, and bowls • garden pots and seedling trays 	<p>recycling stream such as wigs, masks, shoes, outfits, hair accessories, keepsakes, jewelry, glitter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rigid or flexible plastics made from certified compostable plastic or biodegradable plastics (i.e., a type of plastic that is designed to degrade in a defined period of time and under specific conditions as a result of natural biological activity into materials found in nature), such as shopping bags, coffee pods, cups, bowls, plates, utensils
Flexible Plastics	<p>Flexible plastics means un moulded plastic</p> <p>Plastic is a broad category of synthetic chemicals (called polymers) that can have different sources, physical properties and additives</p>	<p>Flexible plastic packaging includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastic film <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ carry-out bags ○ bags used for dry cleaning, bread, newspapers and flyers, produce, dry bulk foods, pre-washed salad, frozen vegetables ○ outer bags or overwrap used for beverage containers, toilet paper, toweling, mattresses, furniture and electronic equipment • plastic laminates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ coffee or deli pouches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • products used for containment of waste or compost such as garbage or compost bags • packaging intended to be reused or refilled for at least five years such as water bottles, food containers • packaging intended to be used for long-term storage or protection of a durable product for at least five years such as vinyl record covers, carrying case for electronics • packaging not made primarily from glass, plastic, metal, paper, or any combination therein such as jute bags, burlap fabric, cloth bags, wood pallets, wood crates, butcher string, organza bags • balloons • ribbons • ribbon bows used for decoration

	Definition	Included	Excluded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ stand-up pouches ○ chip bags ○ bubble wrap and envelopes ○ cheese wrap ○ woven plastic bags used for fruit, nuts, cosmetic supplies ○ vacuum packaging ○ candy and snack wrappers ○ cereal liner bags ○ shrink wrap ○ gift bags supplied as service packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● materials designated under any other extended producer responsibility regulation in the Alberta such as lubricating oil containers, paint containers, pesticide containers*, corrosive product containers**, flammable product containers**, toxic product containers <p>*does not include insect repellent, sanitizer, disinfectant, and antimicrobial containers</p> <p>**does not include down-the-drain product containers or masonry product packaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● rigid or flexible plastics made from certified compostable plastic or biodegradable plastics (i.e., a type of plastic that is designed to degrade in a defined period of time and under specific conditions as a result of natural biological activity into materials found in nature), such as shopping bags, coffee pods, cups, bowls, plates, utensils
		<p>Flexible plastic single-use products include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● bubble wrap and envelopes ● stretch wrap ● plastic bags and wraps used as packaging when supplying a product to the end user 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● flexible plastic PLPs used by households and ordinarily intended for the containment, protection or handling of food (i.e. cling wrap, sandwich bags, freezer bags) and is not used as packaging when it is supplied to the end user

	Definition	Included	Excluded
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> products used for containment of recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> packaging intended to be reused or refilled for at least five years such as water bottles, food containers costume wear other comparable items that might contaminant the recycling stream such as wigs, masks, shoes, outfits, hair accessories, keepsakes, jewelry, glitter balloons ribbons ribbon bows used for decoration rigid or flexible plastics made from certified compostable plastic or biodegradable plastics (i.e., a type of plastic that is designed to degrade in a defined period of time and under specific conditions as a result of natural biological activity into materials found in nature), such as shopping bags, coffee pods, cups, bowls, plates, utensils health, hygiene or safety products that by virtue of their anticipated use, could become unsafe or unsanitary to recycle such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, medical supplies (bandages, gauze, wraps, towelettes, masks, gloves)
Metal	Metal means ferrous (iron, steel) or non-ferrous (copper, aluminum, nickel, zinc, lead and tin) metals that are malleable to form thin sheets	Metal packaging includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> steel or aluminum aerosol containers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> food spray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cylinders under pressure with the exception of aerosol containers packaging intended to be reused or refilled for at least five years such as water bottles, food containers

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ hairspray ○ air fresheners and perfumes ○ deodorants and antiperspirants ○ shaving cream • other steel or aluminum packaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ food cans (soup, vegetables, fruit, chili, tuna) ○ pet food cans ○ lids and closures ○ tins (candies, cookies, coffee, tea) ○ wire hangers when provided as service packaging ○ aluminum foil pie plates ○ aluminum foil food service packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • packaging intended to be used for long-term storage or protection of a durable product for at least five years such as vinyl record covers, boxboard used to contain, store and transport pieces of a board game or puzzle • packaging not made primarily from glass, plastic, metal, paper, or any combination therein such as jute bags, burlap fabric, cloth bags, wood pallets, wood crates, butcher string, organza bags • materials designated under any other extended producer responsibility regulation in Alberta such as lubricating oil containers, paint containers, pesticide containers**, corrosive product containers***, flammable product containers**, toxic product containers <p>**does not include insect repellent, sanitizer, disinfectant, and antimicrobial containers</p> <p>***does not include down-the-drain product containers or masonry product packaging</p>
		<p>Metal single-use products include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aluminum foil pie plates • aluminum foil cooking trays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costume wear other comparable items that might contaminant the recycling stream such as masks, outfits, hair accessories, keepsakes, jewelry, glitter

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Glass	Glass means an inorganic material obtained by fusion of raw materials — mainly sand, limestone and soda ash — which is homogeneous and isotropic. The fused mass has been cooled down at a rapid and controlled rate, essentially without crystallization in the case of transparent colourless or coloured glass, but with crystallization or phase separation in the case of opaque or translucent glass.	Glass packaging includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food containers (pickles, salsa, tomato sauce, jams) • bottles (cosmetics, condiments, olive oil, vinegar, prescription) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • packaging intended to be reused or refilled for at least five years such as water bottles, food containers, canning jars • packaging intended to be used for long-term storage or protection of a durable product for at least five years such as a vase • packaging not made primarily from glass, plastic, metal, paper, or any combination therein such as jute bags, burlap fabric, cloth bags, wood pallets, wood crates, butcher string, organza bags • materials designated under any other extended producer responsibility regulation in Alberta such as lubricating oil containers, paint containers, pesticide containers*, corrosive product containers**, flammable product containers**, toxic product containers <p>*does not include insect repellent, sanitizer, disinfectant, and antimicrobial containers</p> <p>**does not include down-the-drain product containers or masonry product packaging</p>