

# Packaging Compliance

Your responsibilities explained and how we can help you





Veolia has pioneered sustainable waste management and recycling techniques in the UK for over twenty years. Our research, development and investment in infrastructure is second to none and we've become experts at helping our customers to meet their legal obligations as well as their environmental goals.

Sustainability is not part of our business – it is our business. We are shaping a better future as part of our strategy to create access to resources, and preserve and replenish them for generations to come.

## The Packaging Regulations

The Packaging Waste Regulations were the first in a series of “producer responsibility” laws aimed at encouraging sustainable business practices. Since the inception of the regulations in 1997, the UK has made great strides in the recycling and recovery of packaging waste, but this needs to continue to meet the ever increasing targets within EU legislation.

This means businesses like yours are needed to play their part. If your company manufactures, sells or imports packaging or packaged goods – and if you meet both of the criteria below – then it's likely the Regulations apply to you.



Turnover exceeds  
**£2 million**



Handles  
**50 tonnes**  
or more of packaging  
per calendar year

### Your obligations

If your business meets these criteria, you must:

- Register with the appropriate government agency (EA, NIEA, SEPA, NRW)
- Provide accurate data on the packaging handled for the previous calendar year
- Offset your packaging usage with the purchase of Packaging Waste Recovery Notes (PRNs).

This can be done with the agency direct or alternatively, by joining a Producer Compliance Scheme, such as ours.

If you don't, your organisation could be risking criminal prosecution and substantial fines.

## The Veolia Scheme

Veolia operates one of the UK's longest running Packaging Compliance schemes. As a member, you'll benefit from over a decade of experience with this legislation and the widest recycling infrastructure in the UK.



Veolia's network of Material Recovery Facilities prevent more than **600,000 tonnes** of packaging waste going to landfill each year

## The PRN System

A PRN is evidence that packaging waste has been recycled or recovered in the UK. For every one tonne of packaging material recycled or recovered by an accredited reprocessor, such as a paper mill or wood chip mill, one PRN can be raised. This evidence is required by obligated producers to offset the impact of the packaging they place on the UK market.

This evidence can also be raised by exporting packaging waste for recycling or recovery (PERNs) or through incinerating packaging waste at an accredited Energy Recovery Facility.

The proceeds from the sale of PRNs are reinvested back into the UK's recycling system to provide additional facilities, improve existing ones, improve collection methods and increase awareness of recycling to ensure the UK continues to meet the required targets.

## Liability

The onus is on you to cut your packaging usage, which will in turn lower your PRN costs. As the UK's leading recycling and waste management company we are ideally placed to assist you with minimisation programmes and help you reduce your carbon footprint.

## Carbon Negative Compliance

Veolia's network of Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) handle and recycle a wide range of packaging materials including cardboard, steel and aluminium cans and plastic bottles, films, tubs and trays. After recycling separation, the materials are sorted and sent on for reprocessing. We use this recovered material to generate PRNs to cover our members' obligations, helping to control costs and ensure availability.

In addition to this, our Energy Recovery Facilities produce enough electricity to power 345,000 homes annually with a percentage of the input material generating all of the recovery evidence to cover our members' obligations.

Thanks to this level of investment in recycling and recovery infrastructure, we were the first company in the UK to report negative net emissions as defined under the CRC (Carbon Reduction Commitment).



Our Energy Recovery Facilities produce enough electricity to power

# 345,000

homes annually



## Scheme Membership

The Packaging Waste Regulations can be especially daunting and confusing to newcomers. Our packaging compliance scheme can guide you through the entire annual process, leaving you worry free – with peace of mind to concentrate on your own business.

As a member of our scheme, we absorb your legal liability. This means you are exempt from prosecution for non-compliance providing that you have supplied us with accurate packaging data. We use this data to calculate your obligations, and acquire the requisite amount of PRN's on your behalf.

## Dedicated Account Manager

You'll be assigned a dedicated Account Manager who will assist with data submissions, Agency audits and any packaging queries you may have. Our friendly, approachable team is on hand to answer any questions and to provide a cost effective and easily understood service adapted to your needs.

## PRN Accreditations

Veolia operate and manage a number of PRN accreditations which provide a proportion of the evidence required to manage our members' obligations. Further accreditations are in the pipeline to take further advantage of our position in the recycle market, helping to continue minimising costs for our scheme members.



## Why Choose Us?

- Impeccable compliance record
- Competitive PRN and membership pricing
- Dedicated account manager to assist with data submissions, Agency audits and packaging queries
- 1-2-1 training
- Full discharge of your Consumer Information Obligations (if your main activity is selling packaging)
- Assistance with submission of Environmental Undertakings to cover retrospective compliance
- Regular updates to keep you abreast of legislation
- Recycling and waste minimisation audits and a free no obligation quote
- Battery and WEEE compliance expertise
- Advice on reducing your carbon footprint
- Simple online submission process.



For expert advice on how the Regulations affect you, please call us on **0845 8900 463** or email us via **[packaging@veolia.co.uk](mailto:packaging@veolia.co.uk)**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the Regulations designed to do?

The Packaging Regulations were first introduced in 1997 as a way of diverting the flow of packaging waste from landfill.

### Who is obligated under the Regulations?

If you manufacture, sell, or import packaging or packaged goods then you may be obligated. This includes transit packaging.

### What are the thresholds to become obligated?

The Packaging Waste Regulations apply to UK businesses that handle 50 tonnes or more of packaging per annum and have a group turnover greater than £2 million.

### What types of packaging should I count?

To put it simply; packaging is classed as anything 'used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, and presentation of goods'.

There are 6 packaging classifications:

- Paper / Card - cardboard boxes, labels, edge protectors, dividers, internal rolls etc.
- Glass - bottles, jars, etc.
- Plastic - shrink wrap, drums, IBC's, pallets, strapping, food and beverage packaging, etc.
- Aluminium - cans, foil trays, composite lids, etc.
- Steel - cans, drums, banding, etc.
- Wood - pallets, crates, spacers, etc.

Veolia will calculate your obligations and acquire the PRNs you need on your behalf.



### What is the role of the Packaging Compliance Scheme?

We will visit you on-site to make you aware of all your obligations and assist you with capturing the relevant data. Once this has been done we calculate your obligation and purchase the relevant amount of PRN's on your behalf. Once we have received accurate data from you we absorb your legal liability for complying with the Regulations.

### Why should I register?

If your company meets these thresholds, or is part of a group of companies that does, then you are required by UK law to register with a Compliance Scheme or directly with the appropriate Agency. Failure to do so may result in enforcement action or criminal undertakings against your organisation.

### Do I count imports and exports?

Yes. It is important that you declare all imported transit and product packaging. Exports are also declared but they are deducted from your final total.

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