Natural and white PS containers*

The same design for recycling recommendations apply to natural and white plastic packaging, to preserve the high-value of these materials and to ensure the availability of both white and natural recycled plastic on the markets. **However, natural and white packaging should be sorted into two distinct streams and recycled separately.**

		FULL COMPATIBILITY	LIMITED COMPATIBILITY	NON-COMPATIBILITY
	MATERIAL COMPOSITION (AMOUNT OF **PS** IN THE PACKAGING)*	**A >= 95%, B >= 80% and all packaging features are FULLY compatible with recycling**	**C >= 70% and all packaging features are FULLY compatible with recycling**	**Non-recyclable < 70% and all packaging features are FULLY compatible with recycling**
	DESCRIPTION (TEST PROTOCOL)	**Materials that passed the testing protocols with no negative impact*** OR materials that have not been tested (yet), but are known to be acceptable in PS recycling**	**Materials that passed the testing protocols if certain conditions are met*** OR materials that have not been tested (yet), but pose a low risk of interfering with PS recycling**	**Materials that failed the testing protocols OR materials that have not been tested (yet), but pose a high risk of interfering with PS recycling**
	DESCRIPTION (METHODOLOGY)	**In case of at least one limited compatibility one penalty is applied, lowering the recyclability class from A to B or from B to C**	**In case of at least one limited compatibility one penalty is applied, lowering the recyclability class from C to non-recyclable**	**Non-recyclable**
PACKAGING	MATERIAL*	**PS**		**PS foamed < 1 g/cm³; multilayers (e.g. PET, PETG, PVC, PLA, HDPE, PP)**
MAIN BODY	COLOURS	**Natural, white**		**Any other colour**
	SIZE		**Items compacted <= 5 cm**	**Items compacted <= 2 cm**
	PRODUCT RESIDUES (EASY TO EMPTY INDEX)	**A if the index is < 5 %; B if the index is < 10 %**	**C if the index is < 15 %**	**Index is >= 15 %**
	BARRIER	**EVOH <= 5.0 wt% + PE-g-MAH tie layers and EVOH:Tie layers ratio <= 1**	**EVOH > 5.0 wt% + PE-g-MAH tie layers and EVOH:Tie layers ratio <= 1**	**PA; PVDC**
	ADDITIVES	**Additives that are unavoidable in processing (stabilizers, antioxidants, lubricants, nucleating agents, peroxides) and in formulation (SBS copolymer) with density that remains between 1 and 1.07 g/cm³**	**Mineral fillers (CaCO3, talc) not increasing density > 1.07 g/cm³**	**Additives increasing density > 1.07 g/cm³; Bio/oxo/photodegradable additives**
ATTACHMENTS	COLOURS	**Natural, White**	**Light colours**	**Black Inner layer, Black, Carbon Black, Other dark colours**
	CLOSURE SYSTEM	**PS**	**Removable PP and/or PE**	**PET; PETG; PVC; PLA; Paper; Any other material with density >1 g/cm³; Non detaching or welded closures; Aluminium; metal**
	LINERS, SEALS AND VALVES	**PS**	**PP; PE; EVA; TPE (non welded and with density <1 g/cm³)**	**PET; PETG; PVC; PLA; Any other material with density >1 g/cm³; Metal; metal foil; silicone**
	LIDS	**PS**	**Removable aluminium lidding; Removable PP and/or PE; Removable PET**	**PVC; Non removable aluminium lidding; Paper; non-removable PET. Multilayer PET/paper or PET/PS; Any other material with density >1 g/cm³**
	OTHER COMPONENTS	**PS**	**Removable PP and/or PE**	**PET, PETG, PVC, PLA, metal, metal foil, paper; Any other material with density >1 g/cm³**
DECORATION**	LABEL MATERIAL	**PS**	**PP, PE (with density < 1 g/cm³) not hampering the NIR detection (sorting test mandatory)**	**Non removable or partially removable labels; Labels that hinder the recognition of the PS; PET, PETG, PVC, PLA; Paper label; In-Mould-Labels; Metallised materials; Aluminium**
	ADHESIVES FOR LABELS	**Releasable in the recycling process**		**Non-releasable in the recycling process**
	SLEEVES	**PS; Self-separable plastic and cardboard sleeves under mechanical pressure (sorting test mandatory)**	**PE, PO (with density <1 g/cm³) not hampering the NIR detection (sorting test mandatory)**	**Sleeves that hinder the recognition of the PS; Non PO-materials with density <1 g/cm³; PET, PETG, PVC, PLA; Cardboard sleeves; Metallised materials; Heavily inked sleeves; Aluminium**
	INKS	**Retentive inks compliant with EuPIA Exclusion Policy. Direct printing for production or expiry date**		**Bleeding inks; Inks non-compliant with EuPIA Exclusion Policy; PVC co- and terpolymer; Any other chlorinated binder; Any other direct printing**
	OTHER DECORATIVE TECHNOLOGIES	**Laser marking for production or expiry date;**		

RECYCLED CONTENT: No change in the recyclability assessment. A separate 'Recycled PlasticsTraceability Certification' based on a Chain of Custody approach is available with RecyClass.

* Polymer resin can be either fossil- or bio-based, virgin or recycled. EPS commercial packaging should refer to other existing DfR Guidelines (i.e. EPS white goods and EPS fish boxes). XPS and EPS household packaging are not recycled into the PS stream. To recycle them, it is necessary to develop a separate stream.

** Decorative technologies must not hinder the recognition of the underlaying PS-polymer. Features as size, print, mass colouration and/or barrier might require to perform a Sorting Evaluation Protocol. Known misleading features are listed on the RecyClass Methodology and the following size indications can be considered to ensure the recognition of PS:

- Size of non-PS surfaces on containers > 500 ml: < 70% coverage
- Size of non-PS surfaces on containers < 500 ml: < 50% coverage

*** Approved technologies can be found here

Last update: July 2025

RecyClass
Avenue de Broqueville 12
1150 Brussels, Brussels

Phone: +32 2 786 39 08
info@recyclass.eu
www.recyclass.eu