RecyClass

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L'Oréal

RECYCLASS TECHNOLOGY APPROVAL

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DISCLAIMER

RecyClass recognition applies only to L'Oréal 'Physically foamed PP' technology reported in Annex I. The recyclability assessment therefore does not refer to the testing of a specific packaging using this foamed PP. Any specific packaging using this foamed PP would need to be tested individually to demonstrate that the system of resin, adjuvants, label, closure, and printing conforms to the RecyClass Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP containers, and that it is sorted in the PP rigid stream at the state-of-art sorting plants in Europe.
Publication of results of testing of this technology MUST clearly include all the conditions listed in the approval letter. Partial reporting of the conditions is forbidden.
Additionally, any change in the formulation of the technology must be communicated to the Technical Committee which will reassess the approval of the technology.

The RecyClass PP Technical Committee was requested to carry out an assessment of the technology 'Physically foamed PP' by L'Oréal to verify its impact on the quality of recycled PP containers.

The technology is a physically foamed PP injected lid, with 0.2 wt% of nucleating agent.

According to the results that were obtained from the laboratory tests done by the CRITT Polymères, carried out as per the Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP containers (version 5.0), 'Physically foamed PP' technology is fully compatible with PP recycling.

Based on these results, RecyClass acknowledges that L'Oréal 'Physically foamed PP' technology will have no impact on the current European PP containers recycling and provided that the full packaging using this foamed PP foamed is designed under the following conditions[1]:

a) The packaging is made of PP;
b) The final density of the packaging is lower than 1 g/cm^3;
c) The nucleating agent represents 0.2 wt% of the total weight of the packaging, or less;
d) Any additional component or features (inks, coating, etc.) of the packaging must be compliant with the corresponding RecyClass Design for Recycling Guidelines[2].

[1] **PP containers designed under conditions other than those indicated need to be tested to assess their compliance with Recyclass Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP containers.**

[2] Design for Recycling Guidelines - RecyClass

RecyClass concludes that L'Oréal 'Physically foamed PP' technology as per current market conditions and knowledge, is fully compatible with the existing European industrial recycling processes for PP containers. Indeed, the recycled plastic generated after the recycling process was successfully tested in high-value application such as PP sheets up to 50 % concentration[3].

In regard to RecyClass Recyclability Certification, the present full compatibility with PP containers recycling delivered to L'Oréal 'Physically foamed PP' technology, means that a packaging made of this technology as mentioned in the aforementioned conditions will not be penalised with any Recyclability Class deduction. Moreover, the amount of recyclable PP will impact the final recyclability class obtained during Recyclability Certification and should be kept above 95 % or 90 % to maximise chances to get a Recyclability Certificate with a Class A or B, respectively[4]. Also, it should be noteworthy that the presence of additional packaging features, such as inks or closure, could impact the certification process.

About RecyClass

RecyClass is a non-profit, cross-industry initiative advancing recyclability, bringing transparency to the origin of plastic waste and establishing a harmonized approach toward recycled plastic calculation & traceability in Europe. RecyClass develops Recyclability Evaluation Protocols and scientific testing methods for innovative plastic packaging materials which serve as the base for the Design for Recycling Guidelines and the RecyClass Online Tool. RecyClass established Recyclability Certifications for plastic packaging, Recycling Process Certification and Recycled Plastics Traceability Certification for plastic products.

RecyClass – Plastic Future is Circular

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[3] Recyclability Evaluation Protocol for PP containers

[4] RecyClass Recyclability Certification

Annex I

Figure 1. 'Physically foamed PP' technology by L'Oréal.

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