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VerpackG, also known as the Verpackungsgesetz, is the German Packaging Act. It is a legislation enacted in Germany to regulate the management of packaging waste and promote recycling and environmental sustainability.

Here are some key aspects of the VerpackG:

1 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

The VerpackG establishes the principle of extended producer responsibility, holding producers responsible for the collection, recycling, and recovery of packaging waste resulting from their products.

2 Enforcement and Penalties

The VerpackG establishes enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with its provisions. Non-compliance can lead to fines and penalties.

6 Green Dot Symbol

The VerpackG regulates the use of the Green Dot symbol, which signifies that packaging is part of a recycling system and the producer has fulfilled their legal obligations. The symbol is often seen on packaging in Germany.

3 Packaging Registration

Producers, distributors, and online retailers who place packaged products on the German market are required to register with a central authority (such as the "Stiftung Zentrale Stelle Verpackungsregister") and provide information about the type and quantity of packaging they put into circulation.

4 Recycling Targets

The VerpackG sets specific recycling targets for different packaging materials including paper and cardboard, plastics, glass, metals, and composite materials. Producers must ensure that a certain percentage of their packaging is recycled.

5 Dual System Participation

Producers and distributors are obligated to participate in a "dual system" for packaging waste management. Dual systems organize the collection, sorting, and recycling of packaging waste on behalf of producers and distributors.

6 Mandatory deposit scheme

In Germany, there is a mandatory deposit on disposable beverage packaging. Excluded from the Deposit Return Scheme are, among others, beverage packaging with a filling volume of less than 0.1 or more than 3 litres, other specific types of packaging, and packaging for certain alcoholic beverages, juices and milk products.

Extended Producer Responsibility:

Each producer is required to register in LUCID, the packaging register run by the ZSZV agency, and work with one of the licensing companies (Deutsche Recycling, for example) to report and pay the appropriate licensing fees required according to the amount of packaging placed on the German market.

To register your company in LUCID [click here](#).

Single-Use Plastic

Producers of single-use plastic products must register as of 2024 and pay a special levy into a fund as of 2025, depending on the respective quantity of single-use plastic products placed on the market. This includes, for example, beverage cups, plastic bags, and food packaging, but also tobacco filters and balloons.

Further reading

Packaging Labelling Requirements:

Material identifier label

Labelling for the identification of the packaging material is defined in [VerpackG §6](#). The law proposes the use of the recycling code from the EU packaging waste directive. It is important that if packaging is marked with the material identifier, the correct code is used.

Plastic in product pictograms

Cups containing plastic should be marked with "Plastic in Product". You can download the graphic [here](#).

Reusable Packaging:

Restaurants and takeaway establishments over 81 square meters and employing at least 6 employees are mandated to use reusable cups and food containers by January of 2023.

[More on special SUP levy](#)

[Explanatory films about LUCID](#)

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