Compliance Cheat Sheet

About Local Regulations

Updated last on 2023-08-2

The UK introduced the Plastic Tax (PPT) in April 2022 as a tool to incentivise businesses to use recycled plastics and alternative packaging materials. It applies to plastic packaging manufactured in or imported into the UK that does not contain at least 30% recycled plastic by weight. If you have manufactured or imported 10 or more tonnes of plastic packaging in the last 12 months, you may need to register for the tax.

The tax is charged at a rate of:

- £200 per tonne from the 1st of April 2022
- £210.82 per tonne from the 1st of April 2023

The British law regulates the following waste-related matters (click to read more):

- 1 Packaging Labelling Requirements
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
- 3 Single-Use Plastic



Packaging Labelling Requirements

Recycle Now label

Producers will be required to label most packaging using the Recycle Now 'swoosh' and "relevant wording" by April of 2026 – a year later than initially proposed.

Widely Recycled

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This label indicates suitability to be collected by local authorities for sorting, processing, and recycling.

Don't Recycle



This label indicated that packaging is not able to be sorted, processed, and recycled.

Widely Recycled - Rinse



This indicates that the packaging is recyclable after rinsing to ensure food or product residue doesn't contaminate other materials during processing.

Widely Recycled – Rinse, Lid On



This label indicates that lids should be left on for recycling, as caps and lids below 40mm in diameter fall through the holes in the screens at the sorting facility.

Bottle – Widely Recycled; Sleeve – Not Recycled



These labels indicate that the different elements of the packaging (sleeves, liners, or plastic screens for example) must be separated before recycling or disposing, with guidance regarding how to proceed.



Extended Producer Responsibility:

You must register your business in the National Packaging Waste Database if:

- you <u>handle</u> more than 50 tonnes of obligated packaging a year
- your turnover is more than £2 million a year

You <u>handle</u> packaging if your business:

- manufactures or converts raw materials to make packaging
- fills packaging with products
- sells packaged goods to customers
- hires out packaging, eg pallets
- operates a franchise or other licensed business, including pubs
- imports packaging or packaged goods
- brings transit packaging into the UK that will end up as waste in the UK

Single-Use Plastic

The UK legislated a ban on single-use plastics which will be valid from October of 2023. Among the most common items banned are plastic plates, trays, bowls, cutlery, balloon sticks, and certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers.

