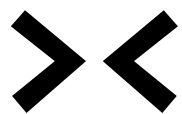


Informational checklist



To make your steel packaging easier to recycle, the following five aspects should be evaluated:

1. STRUCTURAL ASPECTS
2. COMPONENTS
3. RESIDUES AND EMPTYING
4. SURFACE TREATMENTS
5. COMMUNICATION TO CONSUMERS

For each aspect, key points have been listed so that you can assess the possible improvements that you can still make to your packaging to make it easier to recycle.

More details are available in the full text of the guidelines.

1 STRUCTURAL ASPECTS

Goal: Optimise the packaging's structure.

Minimise the thickness and volume of the packaging as much as possible by avoiding particularly pronounced shapes, while still meeting performance and functional requirements.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Opting for packaging with reduced volumes not only makes the product easier to use, but also facilitates recycling by making it easier to separate components and compact the packages. To maintain packaging performance, it is crucial to adopt design choices that reduce environmental impacts. In order to balance material reduction with the need to ensure the container's mechanical strength, its form can be altered, for example by adding ribs to strengthen its overall structure.

SUGGESTIONS

- > Reduce packaging thicknesses and volumes as much as possible while still ensuring safety and performance, for example mechanical resistance when stacking.
- > Simplify the shape of the packaging and prioritise shapes with section variations that are not too pronounced.
- > Make it easier for users to safely handle the packaging, so it can be compacted and reduced in volume prior to disposal in separate collection.

2 COMPONENTS

Goal: Maximise recycling opportunities for both the main body and the components.

Use single-material packaging wherever possible. If this is not feasible, keep the number of different materials to a minimum and make it easy to separate the components made of different materials.

USEFUL INFORMATION

To optimise the recycling of steel packaging, it is advisable to adopt single-material solutions. However, if this is not possible, we recommend reducing the number of components and materials so they are easier for end-users to separate and correctly dispose of in separate collection. Avoiding or minimising difficult-to-remove elements is essential to improve recycling efficiency. If the packaging has labels, we recommend reducing the number of glue points and adding perforations so the labels are easier to remove before recycling.

SUGGESTIONS

- > Reduce the number of accessory components and adopt single-material solutions.
- > Avoid or at least minimise the use of rigid plastic elements.
- > Make it easy to completely separate components made of materials other than steel.
- > Prevent the dispersal of small steel parts (e.g. tabs and disposable lids) by ensuring that they remain attached to the packaging and do not separate.
- > For steel closure systems applied to packaging made of other materials (e.g. cans and glass bottles), optimise the shape and reduce the amount of material used, so the potential waste is minimised if these elements are not recycled.
- > Make labels easy to remove by reducing glue points and adding perforations or other solutions for easier removal.

3 RESIDUES AND EMPTYING

Goal: Encourage complete emptying of the packaging, removing product residues.

Ensure that the packaging is easy to empty, so that product residue is reduced to a minimum during recycling, especially in the case of hydrocarbon spray cans. Clearly communicate the correct procedure that users should follow when disposing of the packaging.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Although residues in steel packaging are not a significant obstacle to recycling, it is advisable to take measures in the design stage for more effective emptying, especially for dense contents. Choosing packaging structures that make it easier to remove residues, with solutions adapted to the type of content, will reduce unwanted accumulations. Particular attention should be paid to spray cans that use hydrocarbon-based propellants: these containers can pose risks during compaction in the sorting and recovery processes.

SUGGESTIONS

> Opt for structures that make it easy to completely empty the packaging, adopting specific solutions according to the type of content (liquid, viscous, solid, powder, gaseous), for example by providing wide openings and shapes that do not have areas where the product can accumulate without being able to be removed.

> Inform users of the importance of completely emptying the packaging of any residual contents before disposing of it in separate collection. Specifically, packages that are still unopened and full should be taken to municipal collection centres.

4 SURFACE TREATMENTS

Goal: Limit the environmental impacts associated with surface treatments.

Limit the use of surface treatments which are not essential for ensuring safety requirements.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Surface treatments improve the functionality of packaging, however, in order not to hinder recycling, their use should be limited when they are not essential, and necessary precautions should be taken. It is preferable to opt for water-based lacquers and paints with reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) content, so their impacts are reduced during recycling. Wherever possible, it is recommended to adopt low-impact coating processes, such as UV/LED coating.

SUGGESTIONS

> Use surface treatments only if strictly necessary, for example to provide properties that cannot be achieved by other means.

> Whenever possible, use water-based lacquers and paints with low VOC content.

> Give preference to low-impact painting processes.

5 COMMUNICATION TO CONSUMERS

Goal: Provide consumers with information that will help them dispose of the packaging in the correct separate collection bin.

Ensure that users receive adequate support so they can understand the packaging's parts and materials. Correctly informing consumers about how to properly handle packaging at the end of its useful life is crucial.

USEFUL INFORMATION

In accordance with Ministerial Decree 360 issued on 28 September 2022, CONAI has developed publicly consultable guidelines with the aim of providing clear and up-to-date guidance on mandatory environmental labelling. In addition, "Guidelines for voluntary environmental labelling of packaging" have been developed to promote greater awareness of the environmental aspects of packaging (these documents are available at the following website: www.etichetta-conai.com).

SUGGESTIONS

> Encourage users to consider what will happen to the packaging after it is disposed of, and their role and responsibility in ensuring it is recycled correctly.

> Convey messages that guide users to adopt good practices during use and disposal.

> Provide users with clear information about the materials that the packaging is made from, in compliance with the reference legislation.

> Provide specific information about how to dispose of the packaging, including separating its components, emptying it, and what actions to take with hazardous containers.