

## **GUIDANCE DOCUMENT REGARDING RECYCLABILITY OF SELF-ADHESIVE LABELED PRODUCTS**

### **EN13430 Packaging – Requirements for packaging recoverable by material recycling**

A label usually becomes an integral part of the product to which it is applied. It is therefore important that both the packaging design and choice of label take into account the use of compatible materials for recycling. For example, polythene containers should use PE or PP face materials. Labeled packages can typically be recycled if the label content and surface coverage are low enough. Higher label contents or unsuitable label materials for the package may disturb sorting or recycling processes and cause yield loss and/or quality issues.

Our recommendation is to use recyclable combinations. The suitable label contents and labeling material, however, depend on the sorting and recycling techniques and the requirements of the end product.

### **Cardboard and corrugated board packaging materials**

Cardboard and corrugated packages with a paper label can be recycled. If they bear a plastic label, they can be recycled as long as the label's weight does not exceed 20% of the total weight.

### **PP, HDPE and LDPE packaging materials**

In most cases, plastic packages with filmic/synthetic labels on can be recycled.

A PE product with a PE label may be considered recyclable.

A PP product with a PP label may be considered recyclable.

In addition, as a general rule for polyolefins (PE and PP) combined:

A PP product with a PE label may be considered recyclable.

A PE product with a PP label may be considered recyclable.

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Disclaimer:

This information is for guidance only, it is based on our most up-to-date knowledge and experience and we cannot assume any liability for damage caused through its use.

All products may not be recyclable in your area. Check with local municipalities' recycling centres for further information about local recycling possibilities for different packages and materials.

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### **PET packaging materials**

A PET product with PET label may be considered recyclable but the quality of recycled material may be lower due to the contamination.

A PET product with polyolefin (PE or PP) based label may be considered recyclable if the density of the label is less than 1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Using a wash-off adhesive can support the recyclability of PET packaging materials.

### **Aluminium**

Aluminium cans with thin films may be considered recyclable.

### **General**

As the recyclability of packaging materials is highly dependent on the local sorting and recycling infrastructure for any other product combinations than the ones mentioned above, it is recommended to check the suitability for recycling process locally.

If you are uncertain about the suitability of any product in a recycling process, thorough testing is recommended before proceeding.

Please note inks could cause contamination and unfavourable consequences during the recycling process. With some label solutions, inks can be washed off together with labels.

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