

DIFFERENTIATION GUIDE

2026

PACKAGING TYPE

Private use (Household) or Not Private use (Commercial)?

It can be difficult to determine whether certain packaging should be reported as Private use or Not Private use. The determining factor is who the intended end user of the packaging is, a household (Private use) or an organization/business (Not Private use)? Service and Primary production packaging is always categorized as Private use, no matter if the end user is a consumer or a business.

If it is unclear who the end user is or if both households and businesses can be the end users of the packaging, then it shall always be categorized as Private use (household packaging).

Looking at who turns the packaging in for recycling can be a relevant indication on how to categorize:

- A household* – categorized as **Private use** (household packaging).
- A company – categorized as **Not Private use** (business packaging).
- Both households* and businesses – categorized as **Private use** (household packaging).

**This applies even if the product and packaging are expected to be sold in several steps before it ends up with the household.*

In its guidance, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency also states that the size and design of the packaging are the most important characteristics in determining whether it is a package for Private use or not.

Below are the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's examples of packaging that can be considered private-use and not-private-use. The examples of Private use apply provided that the packaging is of such a size and design that it can be purchased by both private citizens and businesses.

Private use	Not Private use
• Milk packaging containing one litre. • Packaging containing one mobile phone. • Packaging for a fridge or freezer, of such size that it is commonly used in households. • Packaging containing building materials, such as nails, screws, tiles and cement, if the packaging size is such that it can be used by both businesses and households. E.g. 20 kg of cement.	• Milk packaging containing 10 litres. This cannot be considered as packaging for Private use as it is intended to be used in a business environment, such as restaurant. Therefore, based on packaging size and design it is not intended for Private use.

HOUSEHOLD AND SERVICE PACKAGING (PRIVATE USE)

HOUSEHOLD AND SERVICE PACKAGING (PRIVATE USE)

Plastics	
Material description	Examples
Category A – Low fee – Fully suitable for material recycling ▪ Rigid, mono material packaging¹, in PET, HDPE, PE, PP, PS or EPS/XPS. ▪ Flexible/film mono material¹ in PP or PE packaging. ▪ Colours, lacquers and/or surface texture may not interfere with NIR² material identification. ▪ Barrier layers in SiOx, AlOx or ≤ 5% EVOH are approved. ▪ Shrink film in the same material as the main packaging unit. ▪ Labels fully compatible with material recycling of the main packaging body or separable without residues.	PET-bottles, PET-trays. HDPE- PP- and PS containers and tubes. LDPE-film (incl. LDPE-, LLDPE-, and MDPE-film). PP-film.
Category B – Medium fee³ – Partially suitable for material recycling ▪ Plastic materials that can be, partially, material recycled but does not comply with Category A. ▪ Barrier layers with metallisation (depending on thickness).	Laminates in PE/PP with a density < 1 g/cm ³ .
Category C – High fee³ – Not suitable for material recycling ▪ Plastic packaging with polymer combinations that cannot be material recycled together (can only be used for energy recovery). ▪ Non NIR² detectable plastic packaging. ▪ Plastic packaging that can only be material recycled through composting⁴. ▪ Plastic packaging in polymers other than the ones mentioned in Category A or B (green and yellow) e.g. with no or very low available sorting and recycling infrastructure in the northern Europe.	PE/PET, ABS, PA, bio-degradable or Oxo-degradable plastics. Plastics with aluminium layer.

¹ Co-extruded materials, with the same polymer in all layers are accepted.

² NIR – “Near infrared”-technology, often has problems detecting black or dark plastic, especially if pigment includes carbon black.

³ ≥ 5% filler material, in relation to total packaging weight (NFS 2022:11 § 8).

⁴ in accordance with Swedish EPA ordinance NFS 2022:11.

Contact your TMR representative for guidance, packaging verification or other questions.

HOUSEHOLD AND SERVICE PACKAGING (PRIVATE USE)

Paper/Cardboard	
Material description	Examples
Category A – Low fee Only paper/cardboard/corrugated board (fibre)⁵.	Solid carton.
Category B – High fee - Wet proof paper, paper laminated/coated with plastics, aluminium, or wax and that can be partially dissolved and the paper fibres be material recycled. - Paper laminates that cannot be separated/dissolved, and the paper fibres be used for material recycling. (Can only be used for energy recovery.)	Liquid board carton. Double side wax-coated paper.

⁵ Including composite packaging with < 5% of the total mass in materials other than paper/cardboard (NFS 2022:11).

Metal - Aluminium	
Material description	Examples
All categories Aluminium packaging. (As pure material as possible to maintain a high recyclate quality.)	Cans (non-deposit), coffee capsules and trays.

Metal – Steel	
Material description	Examples
All categories Steel/tin packaging. (As pure material as possible to maintain a high recyclate quality.)	Tin cans.

HOUSEHOLD AND SERVICE PACKAGING (PRIVATE USE)

Glass – Coloured/Uncoloured (white)	
Material description	Examples
All categories Coloured or Uncoloured (white) glass packaging. (Labels, washable, not leaving glue or material residues.)	Jars, bottles.

Wood (incl. cork), single use	
Material description	Examples
All categories Wood or cork packaging, not classified as dangerous goods.	Wooden boxes, single use pallets.

Ceramics	
Material description	Examples
All categories Ceramic packaging.	Jars or closures.

Textile	
Material description	Examples
All categories Textile packaging.	Textile wraps or sleeves.

Other packaging materials	
Please contact your TMR representative for detailed discussions or advice.	

**COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL
PACKAGING
(NOT PRIVATE USE)**

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING (NOT PRIVATE USE)

Plastics	
Material description	Examples
Category A – Low fee – Fully suitable for material recycling ▪ Rigid, mono material packaging¹, in PET, HDPE, PE, PP, PS or EPS/XPS. ▪ Flexible/film mono material¹ PP or PE packaging. ▪ Colours, lacquers and/or surface texture may not interfere with NIR² material identification. ▪ Barrier layers in SiOx, AlOx or ≤5% EVOH are approved. ▪ Shrink film in same material as main packaging. ▪ Labels fully compatible with material recycling of the main packaging body or separable without residues.	PET-bottles, trays. HDPE-, PP- and PS-containers and tubes. LDPE-film (incl. LDPE, LLDPE, MDPE). PP-film.
Category B – High fee³ – Partially or Not suitable for material recycling ▪ Plastic materials that can be partially material recycled but does not comply with Category A. ▪ Barrier layers with metallisation (depending on thickness). ▪ Multi polymer materials where the non-dominating polymer(s) constitute more than 5% of the total mass⁴. ▪ Plastic packaging with polymer combinations that cannot be material recycled together (can only be used for energy recovery). ▪ Non NIR² detectable plastic packaging. ▪ Plastic packaging that can only be material recycled through composting⁴. ▪ Plastic packaging in polymers other than the ones mentioned in Category A (green) e.g. with no or very low available sorting and recycling infrastructure in the northern Europe.	Laminates in PE/PP with a density < 1 g/cm³ PE/PET, ABS, PA, bio-degradable or Oxo-degradable plastics. Plastics with aluminium layer.

¹ Co-extruded materials, with the same polymer in all layers are accepted.

² NIR – “Near infrared”-technology, often has problems detecting black or dark plastic, especially if pigment includes carbon black.

³ ≥ 5% filler material, in relation to total packaging weight (NFS 2022:11 § 8).

⁴ in accordance with Swedish EPA ordinance NFS 2022:11.

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COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING (NOT PRIVATE USE)

Plastic in re-use systems	
Material description	Examples
All categories Plastic packaging part of a Market driven system for re-use.	Plastic pallets and pallet collars.

Paper/Cardboard	
Material description	Examples
Category A – Low fee Only paper/cardboard (fibre)⁵.	Solid carton.
Category B – High fee - Wet proof paper, paper laminated/coated with plastics, aluminium, or wax and that can be partially dissolved, and the paper fibres recycled. - Paper laminates that cannot be separated/dissolved and used for material recycling. (Can only be used for energy recovery.)	Liquid board carton. Double side wax-coated paper.

⁵ Including composite packaging with < 5% of the total mass in other materials than paper/cardboard (SFS 2022:11)

Metal – Aluminium	
Material description	Examples
All categories Aluminium packaging. (As pure material as possible to maintain a high recyclate quality.)	Cans (non-deposit), coffee capsules or trays.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING (NOT PRIVATE USE)

Metal – Steel

Material description	Examples
All categories Steel/tin packaging. (As pure material as possible.)	Tin cans, steel drums, steel band, steel wire.

Glass – Coloured/Uncoloured

Material description	Examples
All categories Coloured or Uncoloured (white) glass packaging. (Labels preferably washable, not leaving glue or material residues.)	Jars, bottles.

Wood (incl. cork), single use

Material description	Examples
All categories Wood or cork packaging, not classified as dangerous goods.	Wooden boxes, single use pallets.

Wood (incl. cork) in return/reuse systems

Material description	Examples
All categories Wood packaging part of a return/reuse system.	EUR-pallets and corresponding pallet collars.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING (NOT PRIVATE USE)

Ceramics

Material description	Examples
All categories ▪ Ceramic packaging.	Jars or closures.

Textile

Material description	Examples
All categories ▪ Textile packaging.	Textile wraps or sleeves.

Other packaging materials

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DEFINITIONS

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Packaging	Products made of any material meant to contain, protect, handle, deliver and present goods. From raw material to final product and from producer to user and consumer. Additionally, single-use articles used for the above purpose are considered as packaging.
House-hold packaging	Packaging designed to be a sales unit, for the end user/consumer, at the point of sales.
Group packaging	Packaging conceived so as to constitute a grouping of a certain number of sales units at the point of sale, irrespective of whether that grouping of sales units is sold as such to the end user or whether it serves as a means to facilitate the restocking of shelves at the point of sale or to create a stock-keeping or distribution unit, and which can be removed from the product without affecting its characteristics (<i>according to 2025/40 (EU) Article 3. 6).</i>
Transport packaging	Packaging conceived to facilitate the handling and transport of one or more sales units or a grouping of sales units, in order to prevent damage to the product from handling and transport, but which excludes road, rail, ship and air containers. (<i>according to 2025/40 (EU) Article 3. 7).</i>
Commercial packaging	Packaging destined for usage at companies, industries or other operations.
Service packaging	Packaging that is designed and intended to be filled at the point of sales E.g. pizza boxes, to-go food packaging, pick & mix bags, carrier bags and single use cups.
Primary production packaging	Used for raw products from agriculture or horticulture operations. E.g. mesh bags for firewood, egg cartons/boxes and bags for vegetables.
PE	<i>Polyethylene</i> – Plastic materials commonly used for packaging, such as bottles, caps and films. PE is manufactured in four main variants.
LDPE	<i>Low-density polyethylene</i> – Polyethylene often used for film and bags.
LLDPE	<i>Linear low-density polyethylene</i> – Polyethylene often used for film or bags.
HDPE	<i>High-density polyethylene</i> – Polyethylene often used for bottles and caps.
MDPE	<i>Medium-density polyethylene</i> – Polyethylene often used for film and bags.
PP	<i>Polypropylene</i> – Plastic materials often used for rigid packaging such as bottles, trays and caps.
OPP	<i>Oriented polypropylene</i> – Often used for film.
BOPP	<i>Biaxially oriented polypropylene</i> – Often used for films, labels and bags.

DEFINITIONS

PET	<i>Polyethylene terephthalate</i> – Often used in different types of bottles and trays.
RPET	<i>Recycled PET</i> – not saying anything about the split between recycled and virgin content.
APET	<i>Amorphous polyethylene terephthalate.</i>
CPET	<i>Crystalline polyethylene terephthalate.</i>
GPET	<i>Polyethylene terephthalate glycol-modified.</i>
Laminate	Material made up of multiple layers. Can be a combination of different types of plastic, aluminium or paper. Created to achieve certain characteristics required by the product.
Co-extrusion	Manufacturing process for manufacturing laminates. Two or more layers are joined together during heating.