

# **Modulated Fees and Design**

NLWA Waste Prevention Exchange 2021

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## Amcor at a glance

#### At home in homes around the world

- ~ 50,000 colleagues globally
- $\sim 250$  locations across 40+ countries

### What we make

• Flexible packaging (plastic, paper, aluminium)

- Rigid packaging
- Folding cartons
- Capsules



**Trusted by customers** 

We produce packaging for more than **4,000 global**, regional and national brands



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## Our Pledge for 2025 – Design for Recyclability is a Critical Foundation

Design all our packaging to be recyclable or reusable by 2025 and increase our use of PCR Design all our packaging to be recyclable or reusable by 2025

Significantly increase our use of PCR materials in our packaging

Work with others to drive consistently greater worldwide recycling of packaging







# Designing plastic-based flexible packaging for both mechanical and advanced (chemical) recycling: What does it mean?

#### Mono-polyolefin materials are needed for viable mechanical recycling

Preference for plastic recycling streams from post-consumer polyolefin-based flexible packaging



Advanced (chemical) recycling input specifications: Review of primary data from large range of pyrolysis providers (Amcor research from 2020): Polyolefin materials are needed

		Min %	Max %
Preferred material	HDPE* LDPE* PP*	0 50 preferably >85 0	50 - 75 100 50 - 100
Acceptabl e material	PS Other Plastics (e.g. PA)	0 0	10 - 20 5
Not acceptable material	PVC PET PVDC	0 0	0.06 - 1.5 1-2

\* HDPE, LDPE, PP combined not less than 85%, excluding moisture, depending on pyrolysis technology



#### Designed to be recyclable (for both mechanical and advanced/chemical recycling)\*

Recycling stream	Preferable	Minimum criteria	Comments
Aluminium stream	>80% aluminium content	>30% aluminium content	
Paper stream	Outer layer is paper >80% fibers content	Outer layer is paper >50% fibers content	<ul> <li>Includes further criteria; collaboration with Cepi (Confederation of European Paper Industries) /4evergreen started</li> </ul>
	>90% mono PP or PE	>80% polyolefins (mix of PP and PE)	<ul> <li>Based on the Project Barrier guidelines (2021) and CEFLEX (2020)</li> </ul>
Polyolefins (PO)	Density <1 g/cm3	Density <1 g/cm3	Includes further criteria
stream	No PVC, PVDC, fibres, aluminium foil, PET	No PVC, PVDC, fibres, aluminium foil, PET	<ul> <li>Exceptions can be granted based on certified recycling tests (e.g. via</li> </ul>
	Other polymers <5% each (e.g. EVOH, PA)	Other polymers <10% each (e.g. EVOH, PA)	PRE/RecyClass, cyclos-HTP)

\*Excerpt of key criteria, "living criteria/documents"



#### And it can be done even for the most challenging applications Example **AmLite Heatflex Recyclable** for retort food

Before STANDARD RETORT POUCH Non-Recyclable



**Polypropylene** (PP) Heat seal layer for a strong seal and long-shelf life

Aluminum foil Barrier layer for product protection and long shelf-life

**Polyester** (PET) Outer layer for heat resistance and strength After **Amcor's Amlite HeatFlex Recyclable** Recyclable\*



Polypropylene (PP)
 Heat seal layer for a strong seal and long-shelf life

AmLite Barrier coating (SiOx) on a layer of oPP Metal-free barrier layer for product protection and long shelf-life

Polypropylene (OPP)

Unique PP outer layer that has heat resistance and strength



\*The new pouch has been independently tested by cyclos-HTP and confirmed to be recyclable. It is recyclable where collection and recycling streams exist for PP and Polyolefins films.

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# The Why and How of Eco-Modulated Fees

- Contribute to development of the infrastructure for collecting, sorting, recycling in the UK
- Differentiated level of fee, based on recyclability status:
  - Materials / packaging with well established recycling stream will have the lowest fees. This is a way to incentivize transition towards these categories.
  - Materials which are not designed for recyclability will have the highest fee. This is the way to incentivize transition away from these categories.

Intermediate fee should be granted to packaging designed for recycling, for which the collection, sorting, recycling infrastructure can be developed or is in development. This is the key incentive to adopt design for recycling across the industry and develop the appropriate infrastructure that is needed to reach recycling targets.



## Eco-modulated EPR fees: example of Italy

			Examples
	Class A	Packaging with an effective industrial sorting and recycling chain existing, mainly from C&I sources	Shrink films, pallet wrap films
	Class B1	Packaging with an effective industrial sorting and recycling chain existing, mainly from domestic sources	Pet bottles, HDPE rigid packaging
	Class B2	Packaging with an industrial sorting and recycling chain in development phase - from domestic and C&I sources	PE flexible film, PP flexible film
Ē	Class C	Packaging with experimental selection / recycling activities in progress or not sortable / recyclable with currently existing technologies	Multi-material flexible:

# **Driving circularity of flexible packaging**



#### > 170 stakeholders from all parts of the value chain



#### **CEFLEX goals for 2025**

Collection of **all** flexible packaging

With over 80% of materials entering a recycling process to be returned to the economy

And used by sustainable end markets to substitute virgin materials



# **Elements needed for a Circular Economy for Flexible Packaging**



Flexible packaging must be designed to be recycled

Infrastructure/Systems available 2 L to collect, sort and recycle it back into usable materials

A sustainable Business Case for all 3 all parts of the value chain incl. end markets

- Well-accepted Design for Recycling Guidelines (mostly done)
- Implementation of the guidelines across all relevant packaging applications (work in progress)
- Policy Framework that drives expansion of collection, sorting and reprocessing infrastructure
- Effective and harmonized EPR schemes across Europe (Extended Producer Responsibility) with eco-modulation driving design for recycling

\*Available from ceflex.eu/guidelines

# As a conclusion

- Right packaging design is critical for both mechanical and advanced (chemical) recycling
- Any plastic packaging needs to be designed to fit both mechanical and advanced (chemical) recycling AND IT CAN BE DONE even for the most challenging applications
- EPR is needed to drive circularity of packaging
- Within EPR eco-modulation can be a powerful effective measure
- Eco-modulation should not only be based on the status-quo, but needs to create the incentives to develop a pathway for future collection, sorting and recycling infrastructure for materials designed to be recyclable

