



1500 companies



2200 manufacturing plants



710.000 people



EUR 110.4 billion annual turnover

13 March 2026

Fibre Packaging Europe

## Recyclability Obligation under Article 6 PPWR<sup>1</sup>

[Fibre Packaging Europe](#) (FPE), a coalition comprising seven trade associations spanning the fibre packaging value chain in Europe, welcomes the legal certainty provided by the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), which entered into force on 11 February 2025.

FPE also supports the Commission's effort to clarify the PPWR through a guidance document. However, **the draft guidance<sup>2</sup> interprets the recyclability requirement in Article 6(1) as applying from 12 August 2026. Our analysis concludes that this interpretation is legally flawed. Article 6(1) only becomes enforceable together with Articles 6(2) and (3), which define the substantive criteria for recycling, and thus no earlier than 1 January 2030.** FPE therefore proposes targeted amendments<sup>3</sup> to introduce transitional measures and remove legal uncertainty.

### 1. Legal Interpretation of Article 6 PPWR:

The draft guidance argues that Article 6(1) PPWR, requiring all packaging to be recyclable, becomes binding on 12 August 2026. Because no detailed EU criteria exist yet, it suggests that companies should rely temporarily on the standard EN 13430:2004 developed under the former Packaging Directive.

FPE considers this approach legally questionable.

- Article 6(1) sets out a general principle but does not provide the normative context.
- Article 6(2) introduces specific design and performance criteria.
- These criteria depend on delegated and implementing acts that have not yet been adopted, and which the PPWR explicitly schedules to take effect **from 1 January 2030**.

Without these detailed rules, companies have no clear legal benchmark for compliance. The structure of the Regulation shows that Article 6(1) expresses the objective, while Articles 6(2) and (3) determine how recyclability must be assessed. These provisions form a single, interdependent system and must enter into application together.

This interpretation is reinforced by **Recital 28**, which states that packaging should comply with the recyclability criteria from 1 January 2030, to give businesses sufficient time to adapt.

Furthermore, Member States preparing national penalty rules treat the 3 paragraphs of Article 6 as linked, confirming that recyclability obligations become enforceable only once the detailed criteria apply. This reflects a fundamental legal principle: penalties can only be imposed where obligations are clear and precisely defined.

### 2. Legal status of EN 13430:2004

The draft guidance suggests using EN 13430:2004 in the interim. However:

- EN 13430:2004 was created under the old Packaging Directive, which will be repealed when the PPWR enters into force.
- It is **not referenced** in the PPWR.
- The PPWR does **not** establish it as a transitional standard.

As a result, it lacks a clear legal basis under the new Regulation.

### 3. Conclusion and recommendation:

<sup>1</sup> This executive summary, shared as FPE, takes its source in a Mondi Position Paper on the topic, available in Annex.

<sup>2</sup> Latest leaked document circulated on 29 January 2026.

<sup>3</sup> The amendments are available in the Annex.

# Fibre Packaging Europe

European coalition for renewable, circular and sustainable paper and board packaging.



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Although the PPWR applies directly from 12 August 2026, this does **not** mean that all substantive obligations apply from that date. The recyclability requirement becomes operational only once the detailed criteria in Articles 6(2) and 6(3) apply, **from 1 January 2030** at the earliest.

FPE therefore calls on the European Commission to revise the guidance to reflect the correct interpretation, by providing appropriate transitional measures in line with point 3 of Annex II and allowing packaging on the market that comply with the essential requirements in Annex II. This is critical to ensure legal clarity for economic operators.

**About Fibre Packaging Europe** - Fibre Packaging Europe is an informal packaging coalition of seven trade associations representing industries involved in forestry, pulp, paper, board and carton production and recycling from across Europe. Our joint mission is to provide renewable, circular and sustainable fibre-based packaging solutions to European citizens to achieve the European Green Deal objectives. For more information, please contact [info.fpe@logos-pa.com](mailto:info.fpe@logos-pa.com)



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