

# PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION (PPWR)

## 2024 UPDATE

The main objective of the revised PPWR is to establish a unified legislative framework across all EU member states, to meet packaging waste reduction targets.

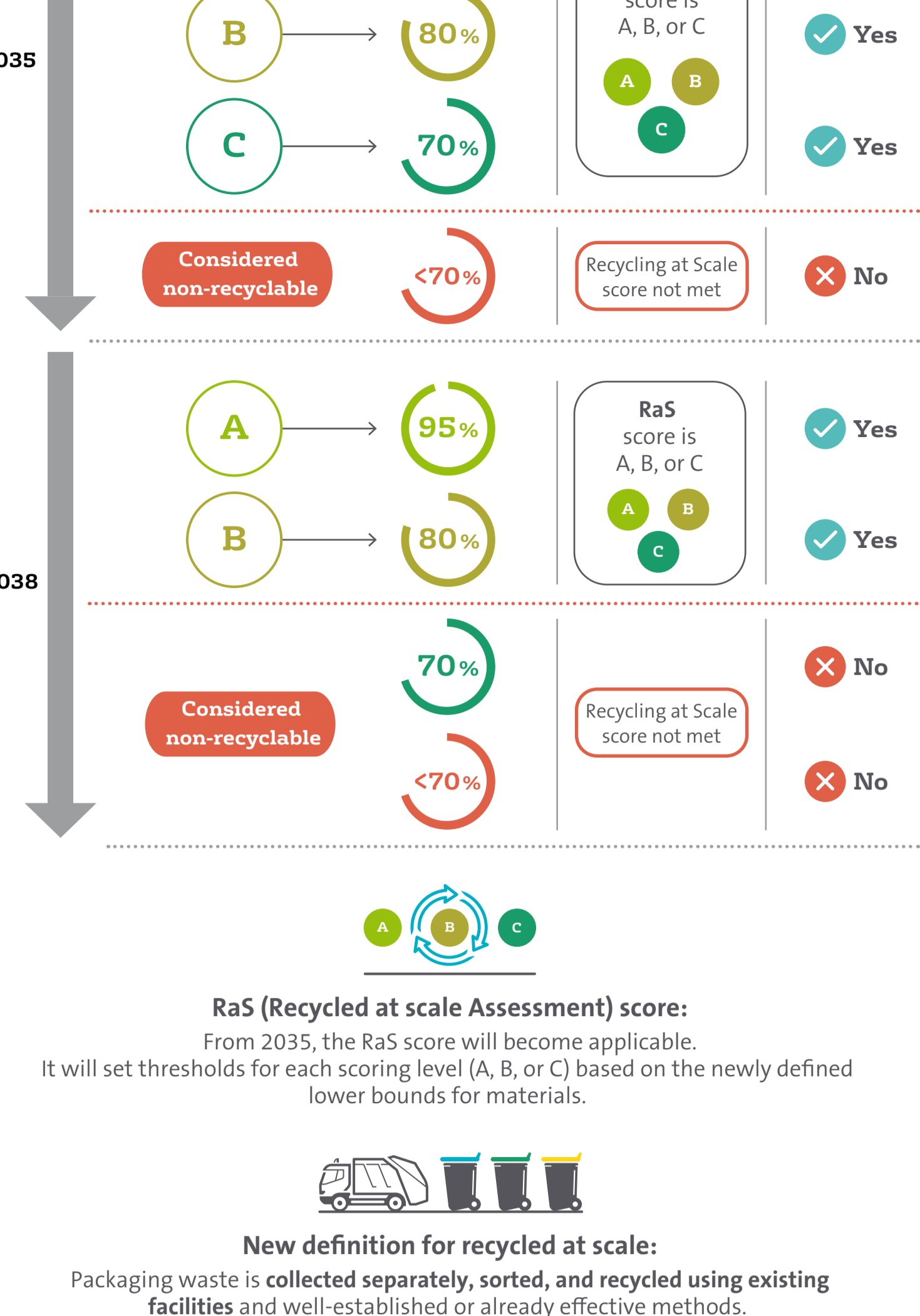
The PPWR has far-reaching implications for businesses throughout the entire value chain, and will likely impact the operations of your organisation.

Take a look at the implications of this Regulation, as detailed by CIRCPACK®:

## What changes do you need to be aware of?

### 1 Design for Recycling

The principles of Design for Recycling have been harmonised across Europe:



**RaS (Recycled at scale Assessment) score:** From 2035, the RaS score will become applicable. It will set thresholds for each scoring level (A, B, or C) based on the newly defined lower bounds for materials.

**New definition for recycled at scale:** Packaging waste is collected separately, sorted, and recycled using existing facilities and well-established or already effective methods. The quantity of recycled material must constitute at least 30% of the total wood packaging and 55% of other types of packaging materials annually.

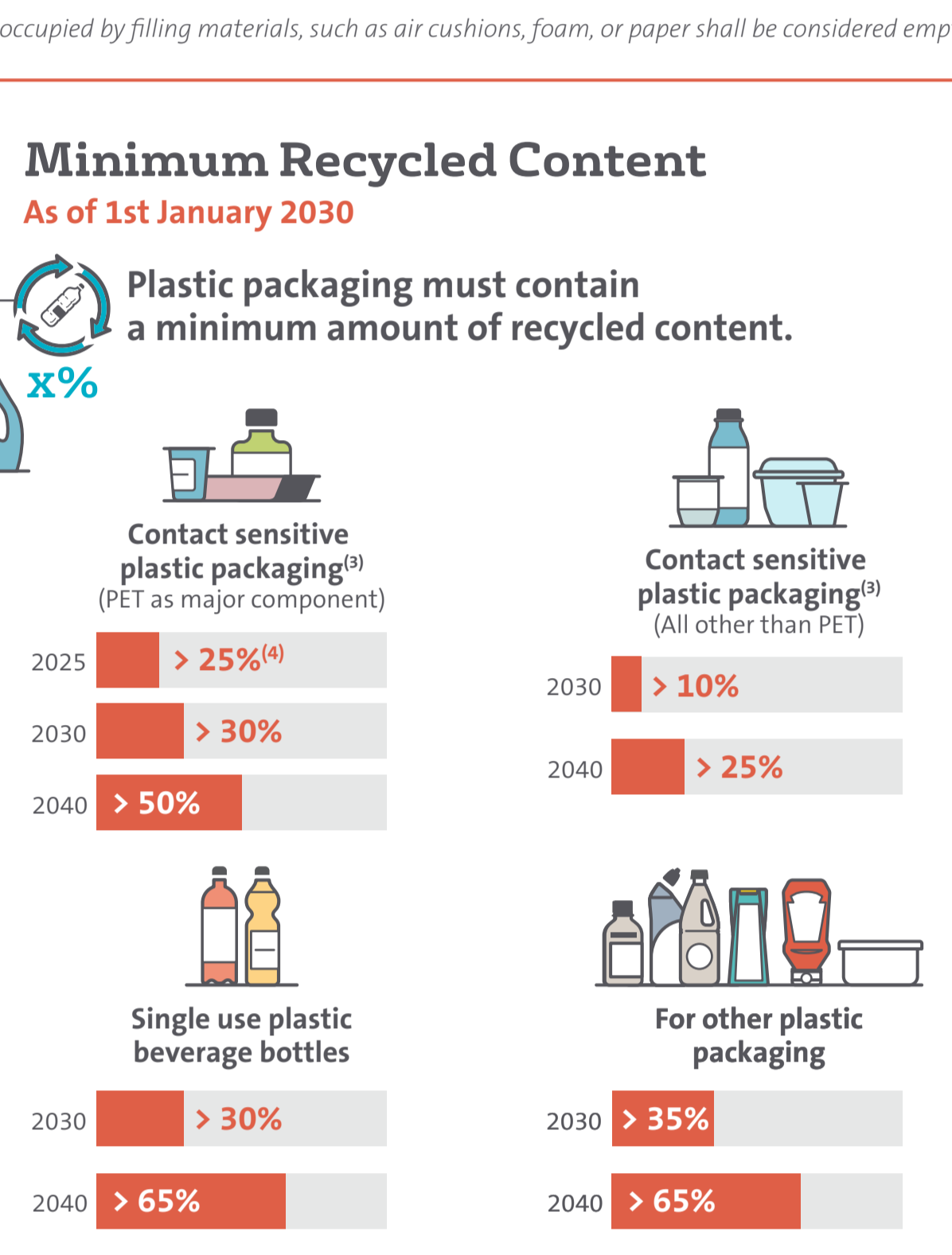
**Your packaging will be considered recyclable within Europe if:**

- It complies with the above Design for Recycling for a packaging category, to which the unit belongs.
- It is effectively and efficiently separately collected in a manner that preserves its potential for reuse, recycling, or other recovery operations.
- It is sorted into defined waste streams without affecting the recyclability of other waste streams.
- It can be recycled so that the resulting secondary raw materials are of sufficient quality to substitute primary raw materials.
- It can be efficiently collected, sorted, and recycled at scale in Member States with established operational industrial systems for recycling the relevant material<sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> In essence, where collection, sorting, and recycling routes exist of sufficient capacity, and according to the new RaS methodology from 2035.

**To assess the level of classification for a packaging unit, Design for Recycling criteria should consider the following components:**

Specific criteria is to be confirmed by 1st January 2028. CIRCPACK® expects that many of the following characteristics will be assessed which are in line with currently accepted standards.



<sup>(2)</sup> Design for recycling criteria and recyclability performance grades will be developed on the basis of the predominant material, and will take into account the above requirements, alongside recycling technologies' associated energy use and GHG output.

### Coffee Capsules and Tea Bags

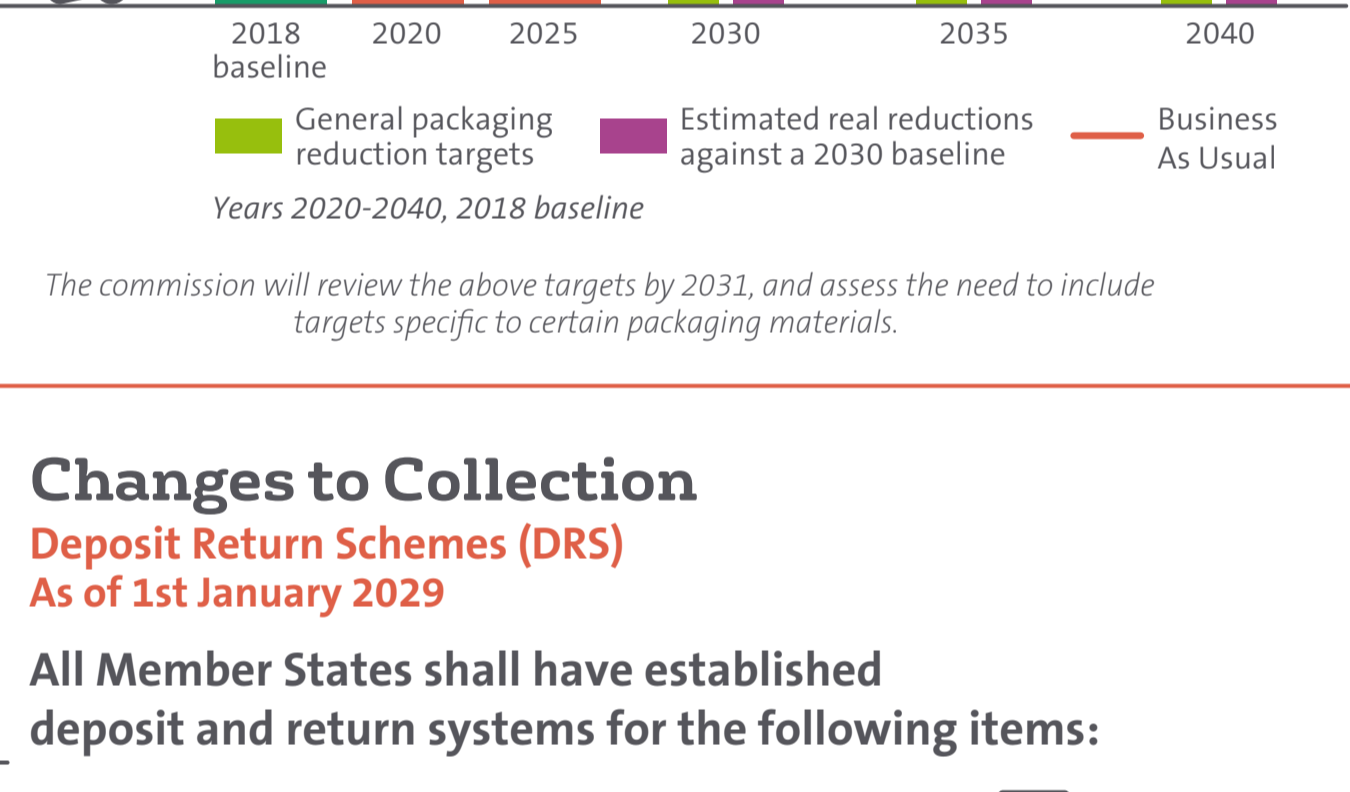
In light of consumer disposal behaviour, the European Commission now considers single-serve coffee and tea units as packaging.

As packaging, single-serve coffee and tea units, including non-permeable capsules are obligated to meet the above Design for Recycling criteria by 2030.

### 2 Packaging Minimization

As of 1st January 2030

**Each unit of packaging should be scaled down to its minimum size.** The weight, volume and layers of packaging must take into account the safety and functionality of the package.

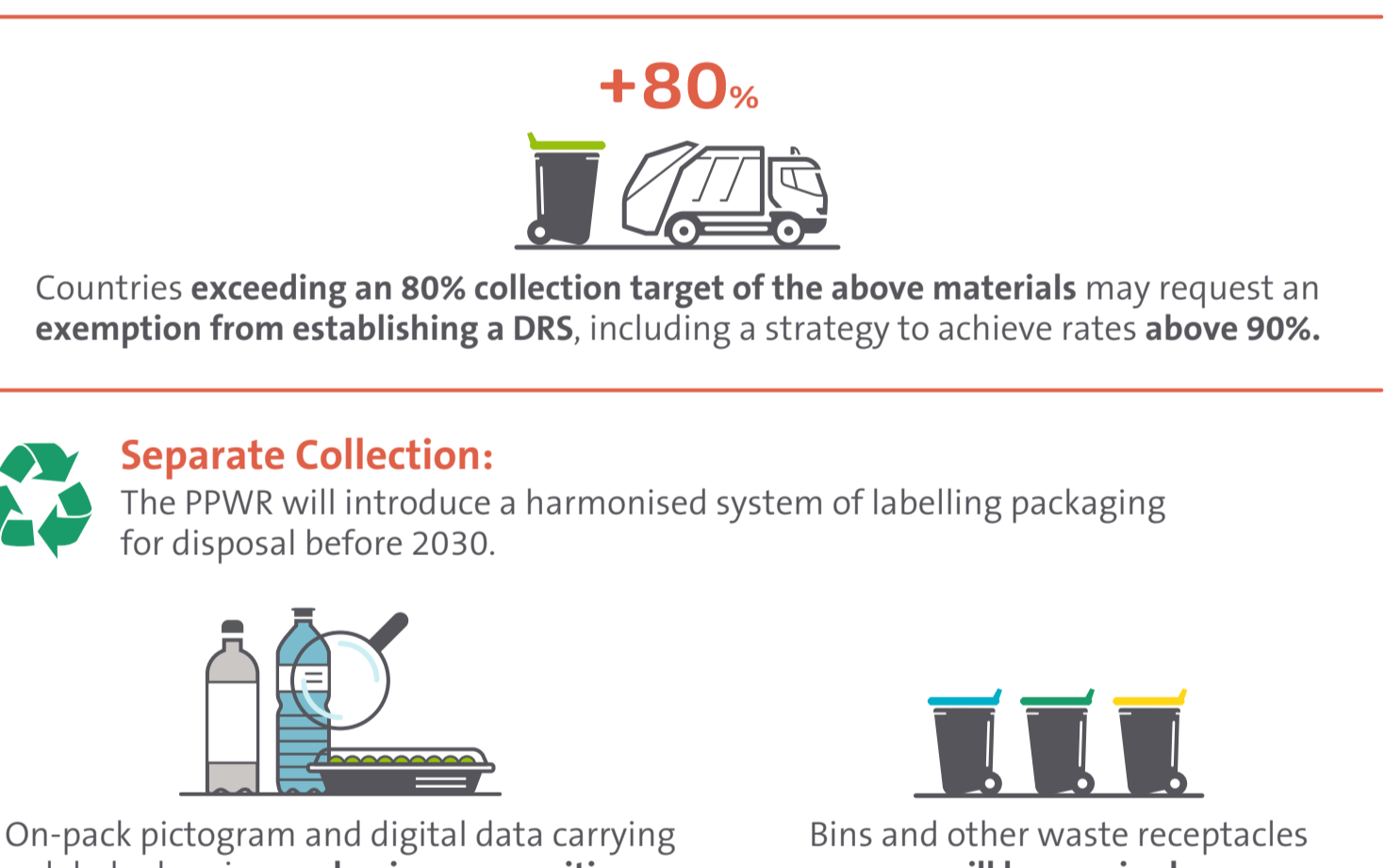


<sup>(1)</sup> Space occupied by filling materials, such as air cushions, foam, or paper shall be considered empty space.

### 3 Minimum Recycled Content

As of 1st January 2030

**Plastic packaging must contain a minimum amount of recycled content.**



By 01/2029, the Commission shall adopt delegated acts for the calculation/verification of recycled content.

<sup>(1)</sup> This requirement excludes most medical and compostable packaging, or plastic representing <5% of the weight of a packaging format. Packaging used for the transport of dangerous goods is also exempted.

<sup>(4)</sup> Only for bottles composed primarily from PET, as described by the SUPD. Implementing decision 2023/2683

### 4 Compostable and Biodegradable Packaging

The Regulation contains provisions for biodegradable packaging waste to count toward national recycling targets<sup>(5)</sup>.

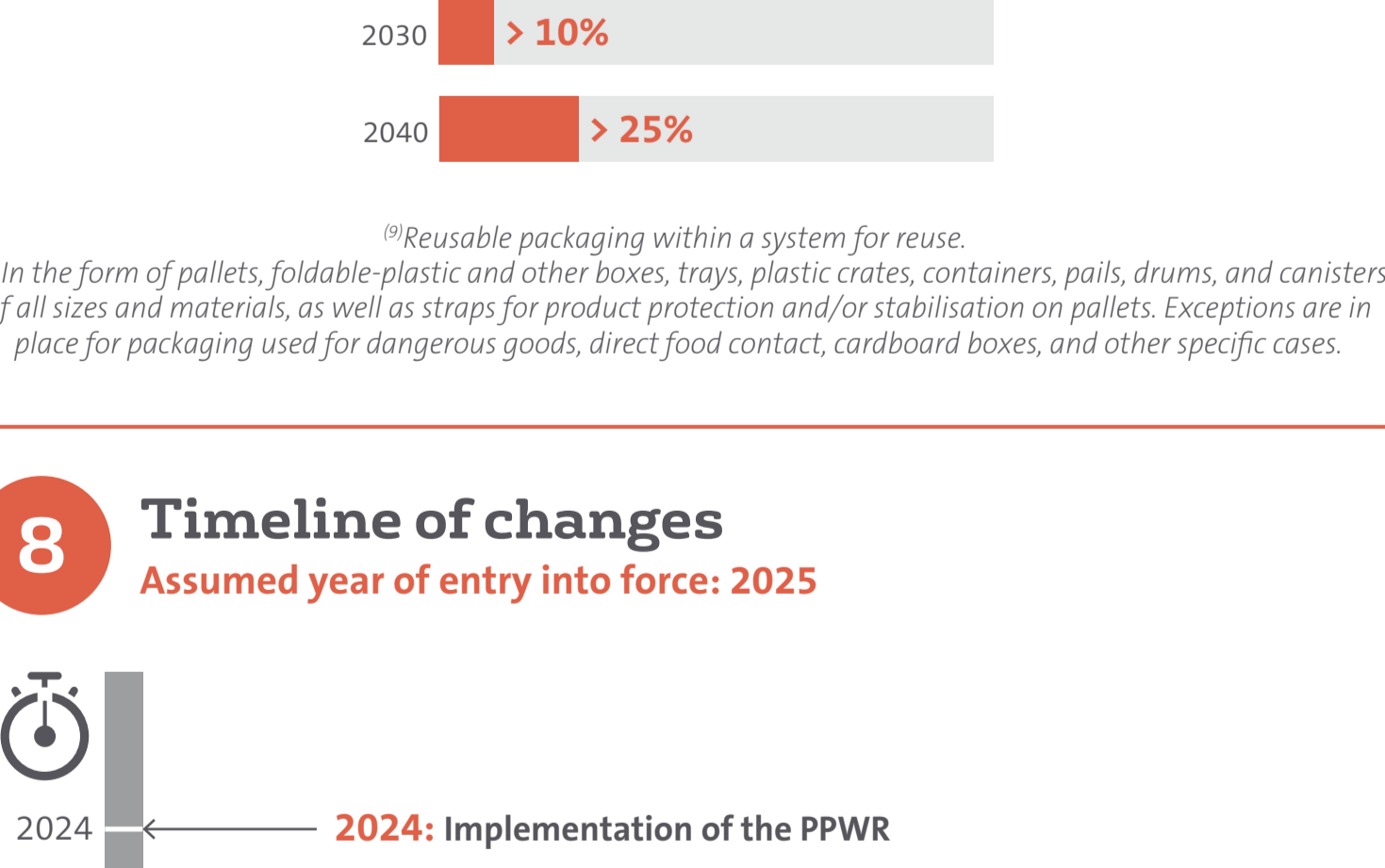
The Commission has outlined the following new requirements for compostable, bio-based, and otherwise biodegradable packaging.

- Bio-based plastics are plastics whose raw materials are made from biomass.<sup>(6)</sup>
- Home compostability is now defined as packaging that can biodegrade in non-controlled conditions.
- Compostability standards are to be harmonised.
- Compostable packaging must not contaminate waste streams and not interrupt bio-waste processing.
- Member States have the ability to mandate that very lightweight plastic carrier bags meet industrially compatibility requirements.

<sup>(5)</sup> Provided that composting and similar treatments generate an output which decomposes into CO<sub>2</sub>, mineral salts, biomass and water. <sup>(6)</sup> The feasibility of including bio-based plastics within packaging to meet recycled content requirements will be assessed within 3 years.

### 5 New Packaging prevention targets

**Overall packaging waste generation reduction targets per capita**



The Commission will review the above targets by 2031, and assess the need to include targets specific to certain packaging materials.

### 6 Changes to Collection

As of 1st January 2029

**All Member States shall have established deposit and return systems for the following items:**

- Single-use plastic beverage bottles with a capacity of up to three litres
  - Single use metal beverage containers with a capacity of up to three litres
- +90%**
- A specific target is set to collect at least 90% of the above formats which are placed on the market for the first time.
- With the exception of:** Wine, aromatised wine products, and spirits; Most milk and milk product containers (As listed in Annex I of EU Regulation 13/08/2013)

**+80%**

Countries exceeding an 80% collection target of the above materials may request an exemption from establishing a DRS, including a strategy to achieve rates above 90%.

**Separate Collection:** The PPWR will introduce a harmonised system of labelling packaging for disposal before 2030.

- On-pack pictogram and digital data carrying labels showing packaging composition will become mandatory in 2030 for all types of packaging, including e-commerce and compostable.<sup>(7)</sup>
- Bins and other waste receptacles will be required to match the newly harmonised on-pack labels.
- Reusable packaging placed on the market will need to bear a label informing users that it is reusable.
- A harmonised DRS label will be developed and applied to packaging formats where appropriate.

<sup>(7)</sup> Excluding transport packaging, as defined by the PPWR.

### 7 Reuse and Refill

As of 1st January 2030

**Reuse and refill obligations are key components of the European Commission's plan to reduce packaging waste.**

The below reuse targets have been set to be met by 2030 and 2040:



Various exemptions are provided for businesses based on size, location, and compliance with environmental targets.

Final distributors in the HORECA sector must be able to offer limited food and beverage products with the option of reusable takeaway packaging.

<sup>(8)</sup> These targets do not apply to highly perishable beverages, milk products, dairy alternatives under CN codes 2202.9911 and 2202.9915, as well as wine, aromatised wine products, and spirits as outlined in EU Regulations No 1308/2013, No 253/2014, No 2658/87, and CN code 2206 00.

The below reuse targets have been set for transport packaging<sup>(9)</sup>:



**Exception:** For businesses that use packaging to transport products between their own locations or those of their associated or partner companies, all such packaging must be reusable.

Pallet wraps have been excluded from reuse requirements via delegated act pending a feasibility assessment. A final determination is expected before Q4 2024.

**Grouped packaging in the form of boxes, excluding cardboard:**

Year	Target
2030	> 10%
2040	> 25%

<sup>(9)</sup> Reusable packaging within a system for reuse. <sup>(10)</sup> In the form of pallets, foldable-plastic and other boxes, trays, plastic crates, containers, pails, drums, and canisters of all sizes and materials, as well as straps for product protection and/or stabilisation on pallets. Exemptions are in place for packaging used for dangerous goods, direct food contact, cardboard boxes, and other specific cases.

### 8 Timeline of changes

Assumed year of entry into force: 2025



This timeline has been created based on the most recent available information in April of 2024. Some deadlines are subject to change according to the date of enactment of Delegated Acts and other legislative tools.

As a brand owner or packaging manufacturer, you want to opt for sustainable, even recyclable packaging. But how can you make sure that your packaging really is recyclable?

Explore sustainable packaging solutions with CIRCPACK® and delve into ReCoRe, our interactive platform, offering insights on global recycling systems.

To learn more and consult with our experts, contact us at [circpack@veolia.com](mailto:circpack@veolia.com)

