Standardization work in progress on PET rigid packaging (except bottle)

Petcore conferences 27/05/2025

Vincent Colard CITEO





Our ambition



Develop consensual methodology, guidelines and protocols to update the guidelines with the aim to be used by the 2028 PPWR delegated acts

Commission's letter to CEN TC261

Ref. Ares(2024)8660470 - 04/12/2024 EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL INVIRONMENT Directorate B - Circular Economy Brussels env.b.3(2024)9685510 Ms Cinzia Missiroli Director - Standardization Rue de la Science 23 - 1040 Brussels, Belgium Email : cmissiroli@cencenelec.eu Dear Ms Missiroli, The provisionally agreed Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) has established the basis for EU harmonised sustainability criteria and conditions at packaging unit level as regards full technical recyclability of all packaging by 2030. The provisionally agreed PPWR does not formally mandate the European standardisation bodies but instead foresees the adoption of the design for recycling rules via secondary legislation, in the form of delegated acts, "after taking into consideration standards developed by the European standardisation organisations". These delegated acts will eventually be the reference document for checking compliance with the recyclability requirements in the EU. This contrasts with sustainability requirements related to packaging minimisation, reusable packaging and reuse systems, and compostable packaging, where PPWR foresees the establishment of harmonised EU rules via standards. Therefore, for these sustainability requirements, the Commission intends to follow the normal standardisation process once the Regulation is adopted and enters into force.

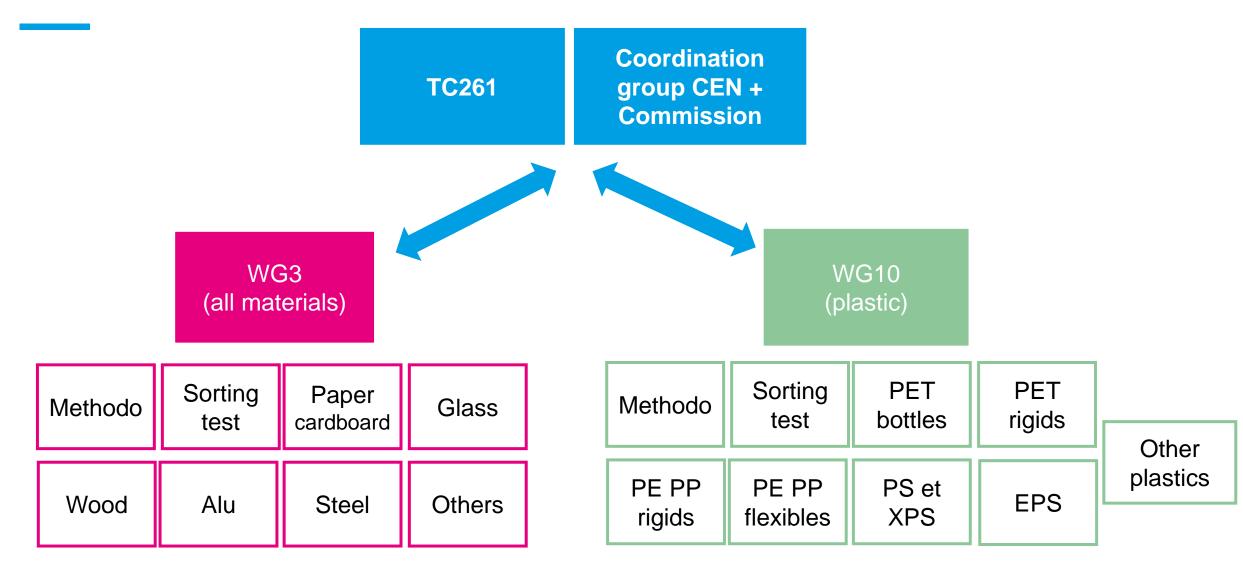
Recyclability is the cornerstone of the new PPWR as all packaging placed on the EU

"CEN and CENELEC, the two official European Standardization Organizations, have been developing voluntary standards on design-forrecycling guidelines for a wide range of plastic packaging made from polymers such as PET, PP, PE, PS, including EPS/XPS, under the mandate M 584 issued by DG GROW in the context of the Circular Plastics Alliance. Since the outset of this initiative, the Commission services have been fully engaged and have contributed significantly to ensure full alignment with the essential requirements on recyclability and the provisionally agreed PPWR. High quality outputs (i.e. standards), aiming to largely harmonise the recyclability requirements for plastic packaging, are expected as a result of this process by August 2025."

The Commission acknowledges the commitment of Technical Committee 261 in its steering of the production of high-quality outputs. [...]"

« [...] the Commission would like to engage with CEN and CENELEC to develop design for recycling criteria for all other packaging materials. »

New CEN organization for dealing with recyclability



WG10 planning in 4 dates

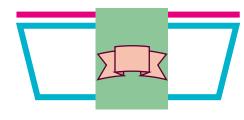
May 2025 – deadline to deliver our 14 EN standards, including traffic light tables and protocols for PET rigid packaging

November 2025 – publication, available in 3 languages on CEN shop

S1 2026 – beginning of the 1st revision to keep on updating the documents

January 2028 – PPWR delegated act with explanation on how to use our traffic light tables for 2030

Packaging unit and components



One packaging unit = One unit of packaging = One grade

PET is the predominant material

Clear PET tray = Main body of the packaging unit

Rigid clear PET table

Flexible PP lid with adhesive on the tray = Integrated component (lid) with a constituent (adhesive)

Rigid clear PET table

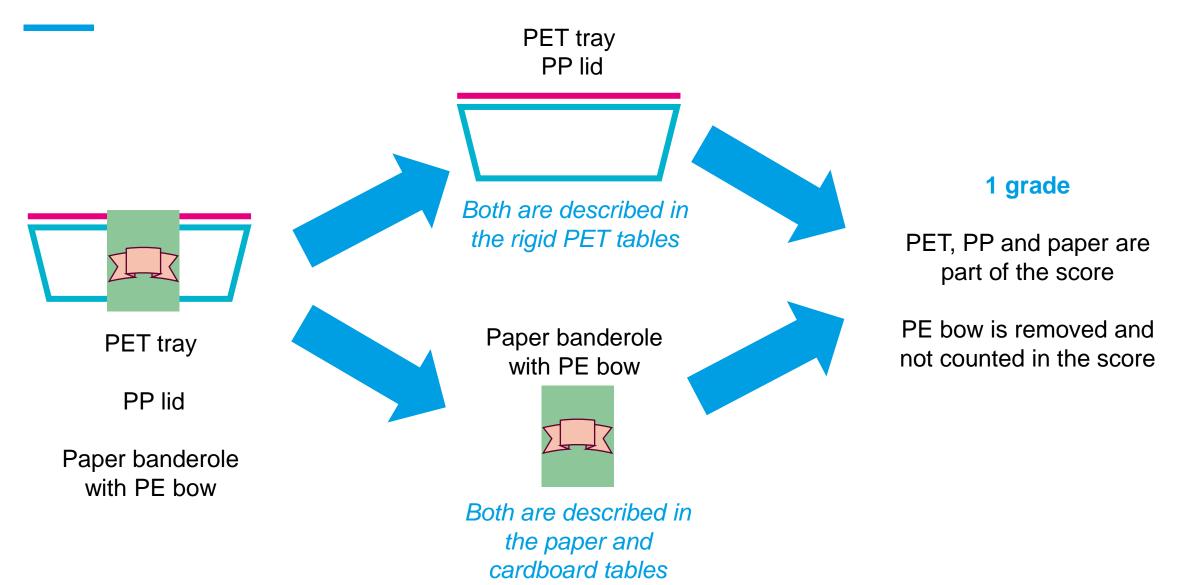
Paper banderole = Separate component

Cardboard table

PE bow = Integrated removed and not recycled component of the banderole

Cardboard table with an *

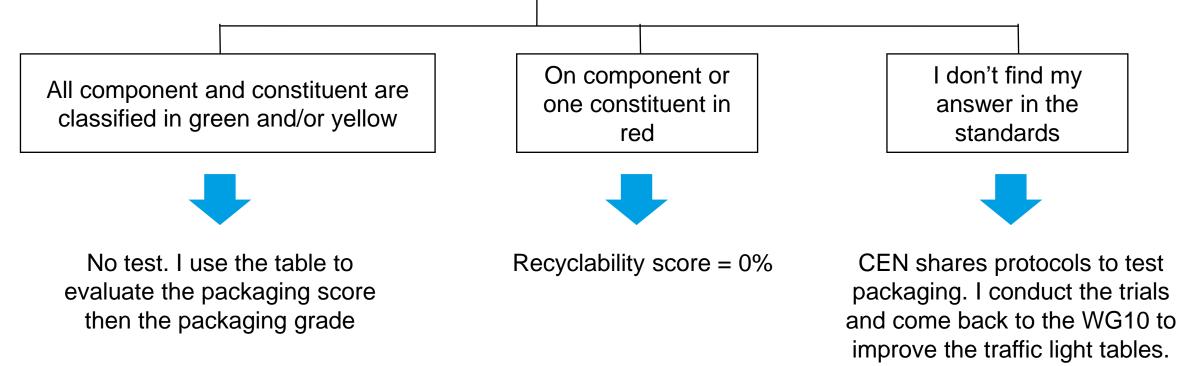
Another way to present



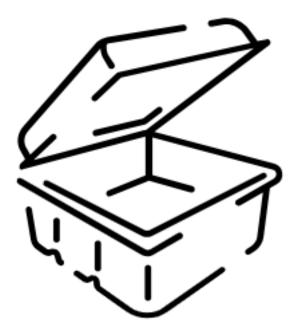
WG10 key principles since the beginning



Is my packaging recyclable ?



Standard (draft) vs TCEP guidelines ?



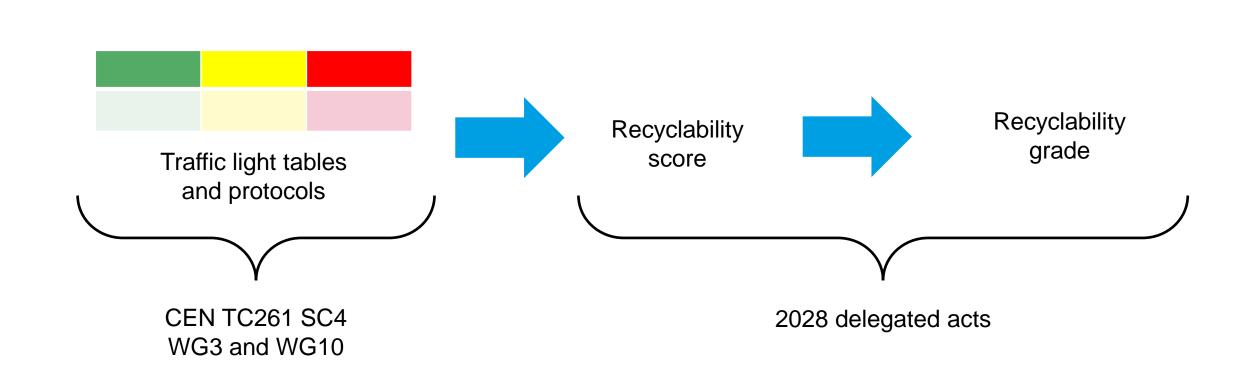
NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST :

- TCEP focuses on thermoforms, standard covers all rigid PET pack except bottles (injection, PET/PE, clear and coloured)
- More details on lid in the standards : nature, thickness, barrier
- PET/PE approach

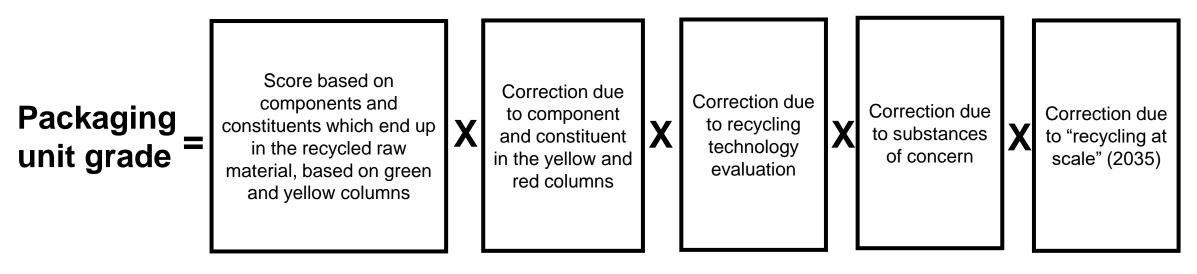
Guidelines from the standard are closed to the TCEP guidelines

We need TCEP to keep on improving the guidelines in the future

From traffic light tables to grades



How works the PPWR grading system? -> impacts on traffic light tables



Sources : PPWR article 6, Commission webinar and coordination meeting between the Commission and the CEN,

Score based on components and constituents which end up in the recycled raw material, based on green and yellow columns Correction due to component and constituent in the yellow and red columns

Two first parameters, what do we know in May 2025?

- Based on mechanical recycling, with PET and PE parts counted as recycled
- One component or one constituent in red = 0% recyclability = ban in 2030
- All the pack is described in the green column? It sounds good for grade A or B
- How to use the yellow column? We don't know at this stage but the good news is that the European Commission welcomes a collaborative work with CEN on the grading system

Other parameters for rigid PET packaging (except bottle)

