

Compendium of Current and Proposed Regulations Related to Packaging Sustainability

Bans on Single Use Plastics

Bangladesh: Goal of phasing out targeted single-use plastic by 90% by 2026.

Burundi: Banned the use and marketing of plastic materials in August 2018. Burundi allowed for an 18-month period to allow consumers and retailers to diminish their existing stock, though it is unclear if the law has been fully enforced.

Cameroon: Placed a ban on the importation, production, and sale of non-biodegradable plastics smaller than 60 microns in 2014, but it is not enforced.

Canada: Certain single-use plastic items, including ring carriers, will be banned starting December 2023.

Colombia: Congress expected to review a bill that would ban single-use plastics other than for medical purposes by 2030.

Costa Rica: Banned the importation or use of expanded polystyrene containers or packages in commercial establishments in the country, though there are exemptions. Also requires importers, producers, retailers, and distributors of single-use plastic bottles to comply with at least one of five requirements: (1) include a regulated amount of recycled resin in the bottle; (2) establish a program for recovery/reuse/recycling, etc.; (3) participate in a waste management program; (4) develop or use products that minimize the generation of waste and facilitate recovery; or (5) establish strategic alliances with at least one municipality to improve waste collection and management.

France: Ban on all single-use plastic packaging for fresh fruit and vegetables by 2026 and ban on the use of PLU stickers on fresh fruits and vegetables unless home-compostable.

Germany: Implemented EU Directive 2019/904 in 2021, banning products including oxo-degradable plastic. In the future, certain single-use plastic products for which environmentally friendly alternatives already exist are to be banned. Beginning July 2024, single-use plastic beverage containers can only be placed on the market if their plastic closures and lids remain attached to the containers during the period of use.

Haiti: Banned polymers of styrene (polystyrene and expanded polystyrene), polyethylene plastic containers with a density equal to or over 0.94, and polyethylene with density below 0.94 in 2012.

Ivory Coast: Implemented ban on plastic alcohol sachets in 2016.

Malaysia: Ban on single-use plastics by 2030.

New Zealand: Phasing out expanded polystyrene food and beverage packaging and oxo- and photo-degradable plastic products by October 2022; plastic produce bags by mid-2023; and all other PVC and polystyrene food and beverage packaging by mid-2025.

Philippines: House of Representatives passed a bill in 2021 seeking to phase out within one-year single-use plastic items such as candy sticks and packaging less than 10 microns thick and within four years single-use plastic items such as film wraps, packaging less than 50 microns thick, sachets and pouches, oxo-degradable plastics, and polystyrene food and beverage containers. The Senate counterpart measure remains pending at the committee level.

Romania: Imposing a ban on single-use plastics in accordance with the EU Directive 2019/204. Some provisions have already been implemented, while others will take effect at a later date in accordance with the Directive.

Senegal: Effectuated ban on single-use plastics in April 2020, including water sachets and coffee cups 2020. Ban has not been enforced, in part due to COVID-19.

Tanzania: Banned the import, manufacture, sale, and consumption of plastic alcohol sachets in 2017.

Thailand: Reduction leading to ban on single-use plastics between 2023–2026.

Tuvalu: Bans the import, manufacture, sale, and distribution of certain single-use plastic and foam items in 2019, including plastic water bottles, egg cartons, plastic water pouches and plastic ice block bags, and plastic sheets used for food wrapping.

Note: This compendium is compiled from various sources (including USDA GAIN reports, private sector entities and online research) to help inform U.S. companies as part of the USDA assessment on exporter awareness and readiness related to sustainable packaging regulations. While comprehensive, it is not an exhaustive list. In addition, visibility into status of implementation and level of enforcement is not always clear. U.S. exporters are advised to work with their importers, U.S. Government representatives in-country and other regulatory experts for more details on scope, applicability and status of regulations which may impact their company's U.S. exports of food and agriculture products.

Uganda: Bans the consumption and sale of alcohol in plastic sachets in 2019.

UAE: Manufacture and import of non-biodegradable semi-rigid plastic packaging for food, shrink wrap, pallet wrap, and other disposables is banned.

South Korea: Bans hard-to-recycle-plastic materials for food and beverage packaging, including PVC/PVDC, colored PET bottles and general adhesive PET bottle labels. There is an exception for PVC when used as a packaging material for certain items due to the unavailability of suitable alternatives.

Vanuatu: Banned certain single use plastic items, including fruit packaging materials such as nylon mesh horticultural nets and styrofoam trays as well as polyethylene egg cartons in December 2019.

Vietnam: Draft decree has proposed a partial ban on the production and import of single-use plastic and bio-persistent plastic packaging commencing on January 1, 2026, and a nationwide ban by 2030.

Zimbabwe: Banned the manufacture for use within Zimbabwe, commercial distribution or importation of plastic packaging with thickness less than 30 micrometers in 2010. Bread packaging is exempt, although it must have a thickness of 25 micrometers.

Recycle/Reuse Mandates and Requirements for Minimum Recycled Content (MRC)

Bangladesh: Target to recycle 50% of plastics by 2025 and reduce virgin material consumption by 50% by 2030.

Brazil: Goal to reduce amount of recyclables that unnecessarily go to landfill by 2031 by 45%.

Colombia: Target 100% of single-use plastic on the market is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2030. As of 2018, businesses must submit annual reports to the Ministry of Environment and Development regarding their use, disposal and recycling plans for paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal packages to ensure that 30% of containers and packaging materials on the market are reused by 2030.

Chile: Mandating 15% minimum recycled plastic content of Chilean origin on ready-to-drink products by 2025. By August 2024, at least 30% of bottles displayed in supermarkets must be returnable for recycling.

Ecuador: Law adopted in 2020 mandating that within two years, the manufacture and importation for consumption, distribution, marketing, delivery and use of containers and glasses that come from polystyrene for food and beverage for human consumption must contain a minimum percentage of post-consumer recycled material or will be prohibited. Within three years, the same for single-use plastic wrappers. Packaging for bulk food of animal origin and plastic materials needed in food containers or for wet ingredients prepared according to technical standards will be exempt.

EU: Member States must produce PET drink bottles with at least 25% of recycled plastic by 2025, and at least 30% by 2030.

Fiji: Producers required to have a plastic bottle permit to manufacture or import plastic bottles as of 2007. Application for permit must include measures taken to collect and recycle bottles.

Germany: Draft law expected to mandate that all PET beverage bottles consist of at least 25% recycled plastic, beginning in 2025. From 2030, this quota will increase to at least 30% and apply to all single-use plastic bottles, except for bottles where the body of the bottle is made of glass or metal and only the cap, lids, labels, stickers, or wrappers are made of plastic.

India: Mandating for producers and brand owners that 50% (rising to as much as 80%) of plastic packaging is recycled in India and incorporate minimum percentages of recycled plastic in their packaging.

Kenya: Goal of recycling 80% of plastic waste by 2030.

Malaysia: Setting minimum threshold of recycled content for plastic packaging by 2026.

Peru: Manufacturers required to use at least 15% post-consumer recycled material in PET bottles since December 2021.

France: Requirement that 10% of all food and non-food packaging be reusable/refillable instead of recyclable by 2027; possible early phasing of reusable packaging requirements for wine bottles.

Serbia: Packaging must be designed and manufactured so that when it becomes waste it enables the cycling of materials used in its production in a certain mass percentage, as determined based on the packaging material.

South Korea: Aims to reduce its plastic waste by 50% and recycle 70% of it by 2030.

Thailand: Plastic in use must be 100% recyclable by 2027 phased 20% each year until then.

Requirements to Eliminate Excessive Packaging and Restrictions on Use of Certain Materials

Examples of problematic and unnecessary materials can be found [here](#) with additional information [here](#), and include intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); non-detectable pigments such as carbon black; opaque or pigmented PET (any color other than transparent blue or green); oxo-degradable additives, including oxo-biodegradable additives; PETG in rigid packaging; problematic label constructions including adhesives, inks and certain materials like PETG, PVC, PLA, and paper); polystyrene and expanded polystyrene; and PVC.

Australia: Phasing out certain non-compostable plastic packaging products containing additive fragmentable technology (July 2022), PVC packaging labels (Dec 2022), expanded polystyrene in loose fill and molded consumer packaging (July 2022) and in food/beverage containers (Dec 2022).

EU: Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste currently being revised and expected to be published summer or fall 2022, imposing more restrictions that will be adopted by key Member States (Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, and Sweden).

Liechtenstein: Packaging must be designed and manufactured to limit the volume and weight to the minimum necessary to ensure hygiene and safety while also ensuring the material can be recycled or reused.

Maldives: Water packaged in plastic bottles to be banned effective September 2022 for bottles below 500 milliliters and by 2024 for plastic bottles 1 liter and below.

Netherlands: Stepped up enforcement in 2020 of a long-standing regulation that prohibits excessive packaging. Imposes fines on whiskey importers citing

certain types of whiskey bottles were unnecessarily heavy in weight; fines could potentially be applied to wine bottles in the future.

Saudi Arabia: Announced a phased approach in 2017. Phase 1 requires that disposable sheet rolls be oxo-biodegradable and is in effect. Phase 2 (requiring that stretch films, overwraps, shrink films, cling films, and packaging for bread, nuts, sweets, and bakery items be oxo-biodegradable) and Phase 3 (requiring that plastic liners used for cartons, plastic bags used for seedlings, and food packaging bags be oxo-biodegradable) are on hold indefinitely.

Senegal: Producers are responsible for reducing at the source the quantity of waste that can result from their activities and put on the market products that are susceptible to being recycled or otherwise recovered in conditions that respect the environment. When it is technically and economically viable, producers must integrate recycled plastic into new products they put on the market. Law enacted in April 2020 but unclear as to the extent it is being enforced.

Zimbabwe: Banned the use of polystyrene in 2017.

Labeling Requirements

Australia: At least 80% of supermarket products to display Australasian Recycling Label.

Belgium: Bans fruit & vegetable labels unless label is functional, has legally required information or is certified as home compostable as of 2021.

Germany: Adopted an Ordinance aligned with EU Directive 2019/904, requiring that certain containers listed in Part D of the Annex to the Directive, including certain single-use plastic products, are only

placed on the market if they bear a special marking on the product or packaging.

Israel: Beverage containers that require a deposit must have a label containing the words "owe deposit" or are prohibited.

Japan: Requires that recycling identification labels be displayed directly on each container and item of packaging according to the type of material used.

New Zealand: Phasing out PLU labels by 2023 unless home compostable.

Saudi Arabia: Information indicating type of plastic used in packaging must be written on packaging labels. All degradable plastic products imported or locally manufactured as a final product must bear the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) “oxo-biodegradable” logo.

South Korea: Currently has multiple recycling symbols that food and beverage manufacturers are required to include on their packaging, depending on the type of packaging material used. Draft regulations announced in 2021 propose additional instructional notes and larger sizing for all recycling symbols to be included on food and beverage packaging.

Taxes/Fees on Plastic Packaging under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Schemes

Albania: Imposes an excise tax for plastic packaging at higher rates than for glass and other packaging.

Benin: Imposes an eco-tax on disposable plastic packaging.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Companies are obliged to ensure proper management of packaging waste (including paper, plastic bottle, plastic wraps, metal, glass, hazardous materials, and multi-material (tetra-packs)), if in a calendar year the quantity of packaging for packed goods placed on the market exceeds certain parameters determined by material type (e.g., 80 kg for plastic; 300 kg for glass).

Chile: EPR applicable to producers which intend to introduce packaged consumer goods into the national market and whose packaging is either plastic, glass, paper, cardboard, metal or a liquid packaging carton.

Croatia: Refund fee to be paid by producers that place packaged drinks on the market, to be used for taking back used beverage packaging, and waste management fee to cover collection and processing of waste packaging.

Denmark: Imposes levy on certain packaging, including beverage packaging.

Estonia: Imposes excise duty for plastic packaging.

EU: Member States required to impose EPR Schemes for all packaging types by Dec 2024.

Finland: Imposes excise duty on retail containers of alcoholic beverages and soft drinks, with exemption for containers that are included in a deposit return system and which can be refilled or used for raw material recovery.

Germany: Mandatory deposit on disposable beverage packaging, with exception of beverage packaging with a filling volume of less than 0.1 or more than 3 liters, certain types of packaging and packaging for certain alcoholic beverages, juices, and milk products. A draft law nearing the end of the legislative process, however, is expected to impose a deposit on all beverage containers beginning in 2022, though milk or milk products will be subject to a transitional period until 2024.

Hong Kong: Developing EPR schemes for beverage containers. Regulations expected to require manufactures and importers engaged in distributing glass and plastic-bottled beverages to register as suppliers and pay a container recycling levy for every one-liter bottle sold. Fee estimated at USD 0.13/l glass beverage container and <USD 0.10/l plastic beverage container. No specific timeframe but expected that the EPR scheme for glass beverage containers will be implemented first, in 2023.

India:

- Imposes excise tax at higher rates for plastic packaging and single-use products relative to glass, wood, and tin packaging.
- Plastic packaging waste must be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable way through the EPR of the Producer, Importer, and Brand Owner (PIBO).

Italy:

- Importers of goods from non-EU countries will be taxed for single-use plastic items and semi-finished products (including preforms, sheets, plugs, bottles, and films) beginning Jan 2023.
- Imposes environmental contribution towards waste collection, recovery, reuse, and recycling, based on total quantity, weight, and type of packaging placed on the national market.

Kenya: Offers corporate tax breaks to incentivize recycling efforts, e.g., value-added tax exemption for products made from recycled materials.

Lithuania: Applies pollution tax for products and/or packaging waste.

Malaysia: Manufacturers will be responsible for treating and disposing of their plastic waste considering design components and use of recycled resins under its EPR scheme (expected to be mandatory by 2026).

Marshall Islands: Deposit beverage container fee imposed on each beverage container manufactured or imported into the country.

Mexico: EPR scheme proposed by Senate in 2019; if approved as written, manufacturers would be responsible for organizing, developing, and financing the comprehensive management of waste generated due to the consumption of their products.

Norway: Importers of foreign packaged goods are required to pay a license fee for the relevant packaging material(s) to Norway's central packaging organization. The importer is also responsible for the recycling of the packaging material.

Palau: Deposit beverage container fee imposed on manufacturers and importers of filled deposit beverage containers.

Romania: Revised targets for waste collection in 2021, imposing provisions under which business operators must recover part of their packaging materials for recycling. Starting in October 2022, Romania is implementing a guarantee-return system for non-reusable primary packaging, concerning the recycling of plastic, metal, or glass packaging ranging from 0.1 liters to 3. Liters. The system is mandatory for all traders and producers which place domestic or imported products on the market.

Rwanda: Environmental levy to be imposed on imported goods packaged in plastic materials or single-use products (not yet enacted).

Senegal: Created a deposit-refund system for plastic bottles in which producers are responsible for putting into place collection points for reuse, recycle and all other recovering operations. Producers who put plastic products on the market are also responsible for the waste generated and must comply with requirements issued by the Minister of the Environment. Tax to be established for products made from non-recyclable plastic. Law enacted in 2020 but unclear to what extent it is being enforced.

Singapore: EPR scheme to be implemented no later than 2025, making companies responsible for the take-back, recycling, and disposal of packaging. As a lead-up, manufacturers, importers, brand owners, and retailers with gross annual revenues above S\$10 million are currently required to report information on the type and amount of packaging they use.

Spain: Importers of goods from non-EU countries will be taxed for single-use plastic items and semi-finished products (including preforms, sheets, plugs, bottles & films) beginning Jan 2023.

UK: Tax of £200/ton for manufacturers and importers of plastic packaging components which contain <30% recycled plastic as of April 2022.

Venezuela: Began imposing EPR scheme in 2021, requiring producers of packaging made from single-use paper, plastics, and glass to register with the Ministry of Ecosocialism, submit individual or collective EPR plans, and begin paying fees to the Ministry based on the quantity and types of packaging materials put onto the market.

Vietnam: Certain packaging with a recycled value must be recycled by their manufacturers/importers or the manufacturers/importers must make a financial contribution to the Vietnam Environmental Protection Fund to support recycling as of January 1, 2022. This measure encompasses food and beverage packaging, including paper packaging with a content volume of more than 100 ml and packaging containers made from metal, plastic, and glass with a content volume of more than 300 ml.

Opportunities and Innovations

Australia: Working with the textile and whitegoods sectors on an industry-led phase-in of microfiber filters on new residential and commercial washing machines by July 2030.

South Korea: Focusing on eco-friendly packaging development as part of its 2030 Food Industry Vision.