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External Links:

- [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#)
- O. Reg 391/21 – [Blue Box Regulation](#)
- [Blue Box Verification & Audit Procedure](#)
- Form 1 – [Quantitative Supply Reporting](#)
- Form 1b – [SME Quantitative Supply Reporting](#)
- Form 2 – [Qualitative Supply Reporting](#)
- Form 2b – [SME Joint Qualitative Supply Reporting & Attestation](#)
- Form 3 – [Executive Attestation](#)

Purpose

The Blue Box Supply Reporting Guidelines outlines all of the information producers need to report their Supply Data, as part of RPRA's annual registry process. It is subordinate to the [Verification & Audit Procedure](#), which is incorporated by reference into [O. Reg 391/21, the Blue Box Regulation](#), under the [Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016](#) S.O. 2016, c. 12, Sched. 1 (RRCEA).

If ever a definition conflict arises between this Guideline document, RPRA compliance bulletins or Blue Box registry forms, note that definitions in this document supersede those materials.

Definitions

The following is a list of terms used in this document that have not been defined in the Blue Box Regulation:

"Gross Supply" or **"Gross Supplied Tonnes"** refers to the total reported weight by material category, before removing deductions or compostable packaging, either as a sum across all regulated material categories, or by regulated material categories, depending on the context. For example, the ratios for Data Integrity tiers in Section 1.6 use total reported Gross Supplied Tonnes as the denominator (sum of all reported tonnes of paper, packaging and packaging-like product provided to an Ontario consumer, including weight associated with compostables and deductions).

"Net Supply" or **"Net Supplied Tonnes"** refers to the Gross Supplied Tonnes less deductions and less compostables, either as a sum across all regulated material categories, or by regulated material categories, depending on the context.

"Supplied Unit" is broadly defined to capture all individualized instances of consumer-facing paper, packaging and packaging-like product components distributed into the Ontario marketplace. For example, the definition of a "supplied unit" encompasses:

- The paper, packaging, and packaging-like products directly associated with a specific product or Stock Keeping Unit (SKU). For example, a single 'supplied unit' would be the paper, packaging or packaging-like product weight and quantity distributed of SKU 123456-789, a 6-pack of 500mL bottled water, sitting in a cardboard tray, wrapped in flexible plastic.
- The paper, packaging, and packaging-like products associated with a specific marketing mailer, advertising campaign, or promotional material. For example, a single 'supplied unit' could be the weight and quantity distributed of August's edition of a monthly promotional magazine, including the envelope used to mail the magazine.
- The paper, packaging, and packaging-like products associated with any other specific consumer-facing distribution by the producer. For example, a single 'supplied unit' could be the weight and distributed quantity of all consumer mortgages or insurance paperwork provided to a customer in a calendar year, transit maps provided at track level, coupons provided in-aisle, or receipt paper from a point-of-sale system/automated teller machine.

"Small & Medium-size Enterprise" or SME is defined as a producer with an average of 100 or fewer employees, based on hours worked, in the most recent complete fiscal year prior to filing

with RPRA. These producers have lower reporting obligations, notably filing the truncated Form 1b and 2b instead of the forms for general producers, with no obligation to file Form 3.

“Producers with High Obligations” or PHO is defined as a producer whose Ontario gross supply represents more than 0.1% of the prior year’s total gross supplied tonnes. These producers have higher reporting obligations, notably with increased Supplied Unit reporting per Section 1.7, and with stricter rules on who can sign the Form 3.

1.1 Blue Box Brand Holder

Where blue box packaging of a product is supplied in Ontario to a consumer, the producer of that blue box packaging shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:

For the portion of the blue box packaging of a product that a brand holder added to the product, the producer is,

- i. the brand holder of the product, if the brand holder is resident in Canada,
- ii. if there is no person described in subparagraph i, the importer of the product, if the importer is resident in Ontario, or
- iii. if there is no person described in subparagraph i or ii, the retailer who supplied the product to the consumer.

For the portion of the blue box packaging of a product that an importer of the product into Ontario added to the product, the producer is,

- i. the importer of the product into Ontario, if the importer is a person who is resident in Ontario, or
- ii. if there is no person described in subparagraph i, the retailer who supplied the product to the consumer.

For any portion of the blue box packaging not described in paragraph 1 or 2, the producer is the retailer who supplied the product to the consumer.

For the purposes of determining the producer in accordance with subsection (1), the following rules apply:

1. Blue box packaging added to a product includes blue box packaging added at any stage of the production, distribution and supply of the product.
2. A person adds blue box packaging to a product if the person,
 - i. makes the blue box packaging available for use by another person who adds the blue box packaging to the product,
 - ii. causes another person to add the blue box packaging to a product, or
 - iii. combines the product and the blue box packaging.

1.2 Determining the number of Blue Box material units

To determine the weight of Blue Box materials supplied into Ontario, the producer may need to determine how many units of Blue Box material are supplied into Ontario.

Blue Box producers may choose one of the following methodologies to determine the number of units supplied into Ontario:

- 1) The actual number of Blue Box material units.
- 2) The number of Blue Box material units calculated using the formula outlined in

Section 1.3 to determine the Ontario portion of the Blue Box material units supplied into Canada.

The options described above do not reduce the obligation of a producer to provide complete and accurate supply data or limit the ability of RPRA inspector to review the data and related records for the purpose of determining compliance.

1.3 Converting National Sales Data into Ontario Blue Box Material Units

The estimated number of units of a blue box product supplied into Ontario can be determined by using the formula:

$$(P1/P2) \times \text{Canada National Sales}$$

Where:

- “P1” is the population of Ontario, as reported by Statistics Canada in the most recent official census.
- “P2” is the total population of provinces and territories in Canada in which the producer sells the blue box product in, as reported by Statistics Canada in the most recent official census.
- “Canada national sales” is the total units of blue box product that a producer sold in Canada in the calendar year

1.4 Determining Blue Box material weight

Blue Box producers must provide the weight of the producer’s Blue Box material supplied to consumers in Ontario rounded to the nearest 0.1 gram for each unit.

When determining weight, apply the following definitions:

- **A component** is an integrated part of the packaging, packaging-like product, or paper product, and is attached to the package when supplied to the consumer.
Examples of components include the label on a water bottle, the steel lid on a glass bottle, staples holding together a calendar, tape holding together a cardboard box or the plastic window in an envelope.
- **An ancillary component** is defined as packaging, packaging-like product, or paper product items that help the consumer use the product and are attached to the packaging.
Examples of ancillary components include a mascara brush forming part of a container closure, a toy on the top of candy acting as part of the closure, devices for measuring dosage that form part of a detergent container cap, or the pouring spout on a juice or milk carton.

Where packaging is made up of two or more different material types and the materials are of components and ancillary components, apply the component threshold rule. The component threshold rule cannot be applied to products in which several items are packaged together using different packaging materials. For example, the plastic film around a pack of juice boxes or water bottles or samples provided in a magazine must be reported separately.

The component threshold rule is applied as follows:

- If a component or the ancillary component weighs less than 5% of the overall weight of all packaging components combined, then the producer is required to report the weight of the

component or the ancillary packaging under the material category that represents the majority of the package's weight.

- If the component or the ancillary component weighs more than 5% and remains attached to the packaging when the consumer discards the packaging, then the producer is required to report the packaging component or ancillary packaging under the material category that represents the majority of the package's weight.
- If the component or ancillary component weighs more than 5% and will not remain connected to the packaging when the consumer disposes of it, then the producer is required to report the packaging component or ancillary packaging under the specific material category associated with the packaging component or ancillary packaging.

1.5 Determining Supply Data

The Blue Box Regulation requires producers to submit Blue Box supply data to RPRA on or before May 31 of each year, detailing the total weight of Blue Box materials supplied to consumers in Ontario during the previous calendar year, alongside any eligible deductions. The way this reporting occurs shall be conducted in accordance with this Audit & Verification procedure, incorporated by reference into the Blue Box Regulation.

Effective for the 2027 reporting period, producers will have to report one of two sets of weight information depending on their producer size.

Large enterprise producers: Producers who are not deemed a SME based on the definition in this procedure shall be required to report in 2027 using the Harmonized Producer Reporting Categories outlined in Appendix A. This aligns Ontario data collection with national standards utilized by Recycle BC, SK Recycles, Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba, and Éco Entreprises Québec.

Large Enterprise Producers shall report this information in accordance with the following reporting components:

- 1) Form 1 – [Quantitative Supply Report](#)
- 2) Form 2 – [Qualitative Supply Summary Report](#), and;
- 3) Form 3 – [Executive Attestation](#).

Small & medium-size enterprise (SMEs) producers: SMEs shall continue to report based solely on the seven base material categories established in the regulation:

- Paper;
- Rigid plastic;
- Flexible plastic;
- Metal;
- Glass;
- Beverage containers, and;
- Certified compostable products and packaging.

SMEs shall report this information using the following reporting components:

- 1) Form 1b – [SME Quantitative Supply Report](#) and;
- 2) Form 2b – [SME Joint Qualitative Summary & Attestation](#).

While any staff member at an SME may sign the Form 2b, there are restrictions on who may sign Form 3 for non-SME producers.

For Producers with High Obligations or PHO, Form 3 will only be considered valid if signed and authenticated by a Corporate Officer under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (CBCA), or under the *Ontario Business Corporation Act* (OBCA). Further, The Corporate Officer signing the Form 3 – [Executive Attestation](#) must be a different individual from the person who completed the Form 2 – [Qualitative Supply Summary Report](#).

For a producer who is neither a SME or a PHO, the signing requirement for Form 3 is relaxed and may be signed and authenticated by either (1) a Corporate Officer under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (CBCA), or under the *Ontario Business Corporation Act* (OBCA), or (2) a leadership report, directly reporting to a Corporate Officer under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* (CBCA), or under the *Ontario Business Corporation Act* (OBCA). The Corporate Officer or direct leadership report signing Form 3 must be a different individual from the person who completed Form 2.

1.6 Data Integrity Tiers for Weight Methodologies Blue Box material weight

Both the Form 2 – [Qualitative Supply Summary Report](#) and Form 2b – [SME Joint Qualitative Summary & Attestation Form](#) feature a table outlining three data integrity tiers; producers shall be required to report on the method used to validate the actual weight associated with supplied units using this table and shall be required to achieve a certain percentage of gross weight validated by data integrity tier. The required percentage verified by Data Integrity Tier will evolve over time, based on the following table:

New Producer	Supply Year	Report Year	% Tier 1 methods required	% Tier 1 + Tier 2 methods required	% All methods required
Year 1	2026	2027	Ratios are tracked; no penalties/public disclosure for not achieving thresholds.		
Year 2	2027	2028	20%	30%	50%
Year 3	2028	2029	35%	60%	100%
Year 4+	2029+	2030+	50%	90%	100%

In reporting year 2028 and each year thereafter, producers who are not validating weight based on the percentages outlined in the table above will be deemed by RPRA to be not in compliance with Section 44 of the O. Reg. 391/21 Blue Box regulation and may be subject to monetary administrative penalties under O. Reg 558/22 Administrative Penalties, Section 44 as a failure to register, report, or submit information in accordance with any requirements in the Blue Box Verification and Audit Procedure.

For a producer enrolling in the program 2028, or thereafter, RPRA will enforce Data Integrity Tier percentages based on the ‘New Producer’ column above, whereby the first year of enrollment for a new producer is treated the same as reporting year 2027, etc. In such a way, after four years of program enrollment, a new producer will experience the same requirements as the system in 2030.

The three data methodologies by data integrity tier are outlined in greater detail below.

Data Integrity Tier One – RPRA views the following methods as having a high degree of integrity:

Method 1.1 Actual Weight with Evidence. The actual weight of paper, packaging, or packaging-like product provided by the producer or supplier, supported by verifiable documentation. Valid supporting evidence includes: (A) a photograph of the

packaging on a scale, (B) Packaging Specification Sheets stating material weight, or (C) Technical Data Sheets stating material weight. Records must identify the Supplied Unit and document the date the evidence was captured or provided (e.g., date photo taken or specification sheet issued). All evidence must be retained for inspection purposes and remains valid if captured within 1,260 days (approximately three years plus an administrative allowance) prior to the producer's supply report filing date.

Method 1.2 Near-Identical Supplied Unit Linked to a Method 1.1 Validated Unit. An unvalidated Supplied Unit may be assigned the weight of a Method 1.1 validated unit if the differences between them are unlikely to affect packaging weight (e.g., Supplied Units are produced by the same manufacture, but the Supplied Units vary based on flavour, colour, surface finish, or printed graphic). Producers must maintain records mapping linked units for inspection. This method cannot be used if the units differ materially in size or originate from a different brand or manufacturer.

Data Integrity Tier Two – RPRA views the following methods as having a medium degree of integrity:

Method 2.1 Actual Weight Without Evidence. The actual weight provided by a supplier or distributor, but lacking underlying primary evidence (e.g., scale photos or specification sheets). Producers must maintain a record of the supplier-provided weight and document an internal review process confirming the weight's reasonability and completeness (e.g., verifying that inner packaging, manuals, and components are included, not just the outer shipping box). Records are valid if provided within the past 1,260 days and must be retained for audit purposes.

Method 2.2 Similar Supplied Unit Linked to a Tier One Validated Unit. Assigning a Supplied Unit weight based on a reasonable comparator unit whose weight was determined using a Tier One methodology (Method 1.1 or 1.2). Mapped records must be retained for audit. Unlike Method 1.2, the comparator unit does not need to share the same brand or manufacturer.

Method 2.3 Average Bill of Materials (ABOM) by Sub-Category. Calculating packaging weight using an average based on internal corporate product classifications. To be valid for Method 2.3, the ABOMs must be based on the third step in the internal corporate reporting hierarchy – for example, if your company organized products by sales division/department, category, and sub-category, the producer should calculate a Method 2.3 ABOM by 'sub-category'. Producers may report in a more granular fashion if they choose (e.g. four steps down, etc.). The ABOM must be calculated on a weighted average basis using weights derived strictly from Tier One methodologies (Method 1.1 or 1.2), such that:

$$\text{Method 2.3 ABOM} = \frac{\sum(\text{SKU Weight}_i \times \text{SKU Quantity Sold}_i)}{\text{Total SubCategory Weight Validated by Tier 1 Method}}$$

Restriction: This method cannot be used if the sub-category contains fewer than three Supplied Units verified via a Tier One methodology.

Method 2.4 Weight Conversion Factor (WCF) from an RPRA-Approved Database. Determining weight via an RPRA-approved weight estimation database, retrieved using a UPC, SKU, product code, or direct comparator. Databases must be specifically evaluated to estimate paper, packaging, and packaging-like product

weights. Producers can access the directory of RPRA-approved databases via the [RPRA Registry Website](#) [note – there are presently no approved databases, and no actual webpage during consultation. Link just navigates to RPRA main page].

Method 2.5 Other Approved Methods (RPRA Advance Approval). Alternative methodologies approved in advance by RPRA. These methods are subject to periodic public consultation to ensure equal reporting opportunities across all producers.

Data Integrity Tier Three – RPRA views the following methods as having the lowest degree of integrity:

Method 3.1 ABOM by Sales Division. Calculating packaging weight using an average based on internal corporate product classifications. To be valid for Method 3.1, the ABOMs must be based on the first step in the internal corporate reporting hierarchy – for example, if your company organized products by sales division/department, category, and sub-category, the producer should calculate a Method 3.1 ABOM by ‘sales division/department’. Producers may report in a more granular fashion if they choose (e.g. two steps down ‘category’, etc.). The ABOM must be calculated on a weighted average basis using weights derived strictly from Tier One methodologies (Method 1.1 or 1.2), such that:

$$\text{Method 3.1 ABOM} = \frac{\sum (SKU Weight_i \times SKU Quantity Sold_i)}{\text{Total Sales Division Weight Validated by Tier 1 Method}}$$

Restriction: This method cannot be used if the sales division contains fewer than three Supplied Units verified via a Tier One methodology.

Method 3.2 Other Approved Methods (RPRA Advance Approval). Alternative methodologies approved in advance by RPRA, subject to periodic public consultation to maintain reporting equity.

1.7 Supplied Unit Reporting

Beginning in 2028 and each year thereafter, as part of Form 1 – [Quantitative Supply Report](#) and Form 1b – [SME Quantitative Supply Report](#) must report on their largest supplied units as part of their annual Blue Box Supply Report

All producers shall be obligated to report their top 5 Supplied Units by weight. Producers may calculate their top 5 Supplied Units by using either units supplied national or units supplied into Ontario but must indicate which they are using.

For Producers with High Obligations or PHO, this requirement will be further scaled up, such that the producer reports no fewer than their top 5 supplied units, to a maximum of the lower of (A) the number of supplied units that represents either 25% of your company’s gross national supplied tonnes or 25% of your company’s gross Ontario supplied tonnes (producers discretion on using national or Ontario supplied tonnes), or (B) top 50 supplied units.

1.8 Reporting on Brands & Non-Obligated Companies

Beginning in 2028 and each year thereafter, non-SME producers will have to report brands using Form 1 – [Quantitative Supply Report](#) in the following manner:

- 1) Brands that the producer is the trademark owner of in Ontario.

- 2) Brands where the producer does not own the trademark, but where the producer has the legal rights to use the trademark in the province of Ontario as an authorized licensee (or otherwise).
- 3) Brands where the producer is the importer of record.
- 4) A list of other Corporate Names (including Canada Revenue Agency Business Number and RPRA Identification Number) where the producer sells that company's product, but the reporting producer is not the obligated producer for Individual Producer Responsibility reporting purposes.

For greater clarity, a "brand" means the branded trade name associated with a product. For example, assume "12345689 Ontario Limited" holds trademarks to the "RPRA's Fine Foods" and the "Blue Box's Best Beverage Company" brands. A producer would report the brands of "RPRA's Fine Foods" and "Blue Box's Best Beverage Company" where required to report brands, but when listing other Corporate Names, would need only report "123456789 Ontario Limited" along side the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) Business Number (BN) and the Resource Productivity Recovery Authority (RPRA) Identification Number (ID).

SME producers will continue to report brands by listing all obligated brands (without the need to denote obligated brands by trademark, authorized licensee, or obligated importer), as outlined in Form 1b – [SME Quantitative Supply Report](#).

1.9 Determining the weight of Blue Box materials eligible for deduction

Under the Ontario Blue Box regulation, producers may claim supply deductions for packaging weight collected from two primary streams:

- Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) Locations – Businesses and institutions, including offices, retail stores, shopping malls, restaurants, hotels, hospitals, educational institutions, manufacturing facilities, and entertainment, sports, or recreation venues.
- Point of Installation or Delivery – Residences or facilities where packaging is collected at the time the related product is delivered or installed.

When claiming a deduction, producers must upload detailed supporting documentation alongside their supply submission. This document must include when the research was conducted, the methodology used, demographic and location data, survey questions (if applicable), and clearly stated results.

Deductions cannot be applied as a blanket percentage across an entire brand, product line, or material type. Results must be calculated at the exact intersection of product packaging type and packaging material. For example, consumer behaviour varies significantly based on packaging format. The recycling habits for a 500 mL PET beverage bottle differ from a 2 L PET bottle. A study could segment PET beverage containers by relative size, like (1) snack size/single serving, (2) standard size, and (3) family/jumbo sized/multi-service, to accurately reflect how consumers interact with unique packaging formats.

All studies and methodologies must be pre-approved by RPRA and conducted within the past three years to remain valid. This vetting process, which includes a review of survey questions and deployment strategies, is designed to eliminate leading questions, deployment bias, and skewed data. Unapproved studies may result in deductions being rejected during inspections.

To initiate the pre-approval process, contact registry@rpra.ca.

Depending on the chosen approach, producers must provide specific details during the pre-approval process

Actual Data (Calculated Method)

Producers using actual operational data must outline how the data is collected, stored, managed, and prepared. This includes detailing data controls and the step-by-step methodology underpinning the final calculation.

For example, a quick-service restaurant claiming a deduction for "dine-in" packaging may detail the staff script for recording orders, the default system state if the question is unasked (e.g., defaulting to "take-out"), ongoing staff training protocols, the IT storage system, and the final data processing steps (e.g., calculating average 'dine-in' rates across stores to facilitate removing outliers, or reporting exactly as entered, etc.).

Survey Methodology

Producers using surveys must submit their proposed questions, sample size, deployment methodology, and data treatment plan (including outlier handling and demographic representation). Surveys must adhere to the following standards:

- **Sample Size** – A minimum of 1,050 respondents per fielded survey.
- **Demographic Stratification** – The sample population must mirror the broader Ontario consumer base. Data collection must capture and be stratified against the most recent Statistics Canada Census data for age, gender, education, household size, and geography (urban, suburban, rural/far north).
- **Seasonality** – As of the 2028 reporting year and thereafter, single-snapshot studies will no longer be valid. Because recycling rates fluctuate, typically dropping in winter, surveys must be conducted across all four seasons (winter, spring, summer, and fall) to capture behavioural changes accurately.

RPRA-Provided Benchmarks

Producers who prefer not to conduct their own specialized research will eventually have the option to opt into RPRA-provided deduction benchmarks. These benchmarks will be rolled out using a phased sector approach:

- **2027:** Food & Beverage
- **2028:** Home Improvement, Hardware & Building Materials
- **2029:** Electronics & Office Supplies

1.10 Certified compostable products and packaging standards

In the Blue Box Regulation, certified compostable products and packaging are defined as material that are both:

- (a) only capable of being processed by composting, anaerobic digestion or other processes that result in decomposition by bacteria or other living organisms, and
- (b) certified compostable by an international, national, or industry standard that is listed in this procedure.

To qualify for 1.10(a), a Supplied Unit must, when placed directly, in an unused or unsoiled manner, into a curbside blue box would be treated by residue or reduce processor yields in the majority of Ontario's common collection system.

In other words, if a certified packaging or packaging-like product directly placed in the Ontario curbside blue box can be recycled, it does not qualify as *only* being capable of being processed by composting, anaerobic digestion or other processes that result in decomposition by bacteria or other living organisms.

To qualify for 1.10(b) above, a Supplied Unit must be certified under one of the following standards:

- a) CAN/BNQ 0017-088: Specifications for Compostable Plastics
- b) ISO 17088: Specifications for compostable plastics
- c) ASTM D6400: Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities
- d) ASTM D6868: Standard Specification for Labeling of End Items that Incorporate Plastics and Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities
- e) EN 13432: Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation - Test scheme and evaluation criteria for the final acceptance of packaging

Producers who are required to submit the weight of Blue Box material in the certified compostable products and packaging material category must provide the weight of Blue Box material certified under each applicable international, national, or industry standard. For example, a producer must provide the weight of Blue Box materials certified under CAN/BNQ 0017-088 separately from the weight of Blue Box materials certified under ISO 17088.

As evidence to support the claimed weight as certified compostable product and packaging material, producers must keep the following two items on record for review by RPRA:

- A valid **Third-Party Certificate of Conformity** for one of the following standards: CAN/BNQ 0017-088, ISO 17088, ASTM D6400, ASTM D6868, or EN 13432.
- Prepare documentation illustrating that compostable material cannot be recycled by our collection system (system treats the material as contamination at either the primary or secondary processor level, e.g. residue, lowered recycling yields, etc.). Evidence could be a specification sheet indicating the compostable material's Ontario recycling capacity, or attestation from a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) or the System Administrator.

1.11 RPRA Verification Standard

The RPRA Board of Directors has set a strategic target, stating that 80% of supply and performance data must be verified on an ongoing basis by 2031 (and each year thereafter). Because achieving this goal directly influences the scheduling and cadence of Audit & Risk Team (ART) Inspections, establishing a clear definition of "verified data" is essential. That definition is explored further in this document both for transparency, and to ensure the producer community is consulted on this important definition which will shape how ART Inspections are governed.

For supply reporting, RPRA defines "verified tonnes" as supply data from a producer that has

undergone an ART Inspection within the previous three reporting years. In other words, once inspected, a producer's reported supply counts toward the 80% board metric for a three-year period.

As an example, if Producer A's 2026 Supply Report undergoes an ART Inspection, their reported supply qualifies as "verified tonnes" through to the start of the 2030 reporting cycle. If Producer A is inspected again in 2027, the three-year validity window simply resets to the start of the 2031 reporting cycle (no double counting towards the Board target applies).

This metric does not restrict ART's operational authority; inspections remain fundamentally risk based. High-risk accounts will continue to be inspected as necessary, regardless of past inspection dates. However, establishing this three-year validity window impacts resource allocation in two important ways:

- Inspection Frequency of PHO – The approximately 150 Producers with High Obligation (PHO) account for roughly 80% of total Blue Box supply. To maintain the 80% verification threshold, each of these ~150 producers essentially must be inspected at least once every three years.
- Broader Inspection Coverage – Recognizing data as verified for three years prevents the need for annual re-inspections of low-risk Producers with High Obligation, providing ART the flexibility to inspect a broader, more diverse sample of producers across the province.

Appendix A - Harmonized Producer Reporting Categories

Producers obligated to report on the Harmonized Producer Reporting Categories shall report the following information in Form 1 – [Quantitative Supply Report](#):

Paper

Newsprint

Definition: Newspaper publications with or without a glossy cover and published for quick consumption.

Examples: Used for daily newspapers, community papers, and commuter tabloids.

Reporting Tips: Plastic film used to protect newspaper should be reported under either LDPE/HDPE Transparent Flexible Packaging; PLA and Other Degradable Flexible Packaging; or as Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging, if made from any other flexible packaging material. Newsprint used as a product packaging should be reported as Other Paper and Paperboard Packaging subcategory.

Newsprint (inserts & circulars)

Definition: Newsprint material that is unbound, glossy/ non-glossy, printed on low-grade paper, and intended for mass distribution to consumers.

Examples: Used for newsprint inserts, brochures, flyers, advertisements, promotional information (park guides), and standalone advertising publications (real estate supplements), often distributed with or without newspapers, typically promoting retail sales or events.

Reporting Tips: Producers should report film contained around newsprint for protection as either LDPE/HDPE Transparent (or Opaque) Flexible Packaging; PLA and Other Degradable Flexible Packaging; or as Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging, if made from any other flexible packaging material. Newsprint used as product packaging should be reported as Other Paper and Paperboard Packaging.

Magazines, Catalogues & Directories

Definition: Bound paper products supplied to consumers whether it is coated, glossy/ non-glossy.

Examples: Used for any bound paper such as magazines, product or seasonal catalogues, telephone or business directories, coupon books, calendars, park guides, auto publications, real estate supplements and product or instruction manuals, notebooks, note or sketch pads.

Reporting Tips: Producers should report film used for protection as either LDPE/HDPE Transparent Flexible Packaging; PLA and Other Degradable Flexible Packaging; or as Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging, if made from any other flexible packaging material

Paper for General Use & Other Paper

Definition: Loose paper products supplied to consumers whether it is coated, glossy/ non-glossy.

Examples: Used for loose paper such as craft and home office supplies, blank graph or ruled, construction paper, posters, greeting cards, envelopes with or without windows, promotional cards or posters distributed to the residential consumer, printed information within packaged products such as assembly instructions, user guides, promotional information, warranty cards, product safety information, coupons; documents and statements, investment fund reports, fund prospectus, contracts, lottery tickets, scratch cards and fund raising tickets; cash register receipts, debit and credit receipts, proof of purchases and other printed material provided at point of sale, transportation and transit schedules.

Reporting Tip: Excludes bound reference or literary books or textbooks and paper which may be unsafe or unsanitary to recycle such as paper towel or toilet paper

Paper Packaging

Gable Top Containers

Definition: Gable Top Containers are packaging containers made primarily of paperboard with a polyethylene lining, designed with a gable-shaped top that folds into a pointed peak. This category is for non-beverage products.

Examples: Used for sugar, confectionary products, molasses, rice, egg whites, laundry and cleaning products, sauces, ready-to-drink infant formulas, dietary supplements and meal replacements, condensed or evaporated milk, whipping cream, coffee cream or other coffee additives, buttermilk, and other products not classified as a beverage.

Reporting Tips: Recall that beverage containers must be reported separately in Ontario

Gable Top Containers – Beverage

Definition: Gable Top Containers are packaging containers made primarily of paperboard with a polyethylene lining, designed with a gable-shaped top that folds into a pointed peak. This category is for beverage products.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables, and juice.

Reporting Tips: Recall that beverage containers must be reported separately in Ontario.

Aseptic Containers

Definition: Aseptic containers are multi-layered packaging designed to

preserve perishable liquid or semi-liquid food products without refrigeration. They are made using a combination of paperboard, polyethylene and aluminum foil. This category is used for non-beverage products.

Examples: Used for soups, sauces, purees, vegetables and legumes, broth, ready-to-drink infant formulas, dietary supplements and meal replacements, condensed or evaporated milk, whipping cream, coffee cream or other coffee additives, buttermilk, and other products not classified as a beverage.

Aseptic Containers –
Beverage

Definition: Aseptic containers are multi-layered packaging designed to preserve perishable liquid or semi-liquid food products without refrigeration. They are made using a combination of paperboard, polyethylene and aluminum foil. This category is used for beverage products.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Polycoated/
Laminated Paper

Definition: Polycoated or laminated paper packaging that has been coated or bonded with a thin layer of plastic or foil to enhance its barrier properties. This category also includes packaging that is primarily plastic but contains any percentage of paper lamination. This category does not include paper that is coated with wax.

Examples: Used for pet food bags, foodservice wrap, paper/plastic based wrapping paper, laminated kraft paper bags.

Reporting Tips: Report paper that is coated with wax as Other Paper and Paperboard Packaging. Report non-laminated kraft paper bags as Kraft Paper and Packaging.

Polycoated/
Laminated
Paperboard

Definitions: Single or double-sided polycoated or laminated rigid paperboard or moulded fibre packaging coated or bonded with a thin layer of plastic or foil to enhance its barrier properties. This category does not include paperboard that is coated with wax.

Examples: Used for ice cream containers, hot and cold drink cups, frozen foods, foodservice packaging, soup/chilli bowls, laminated paperboard takeout containers/boxes, polycoated paper plates or trays.

Reporting Tips: Report paperboard that is coated with wax, spiral wound or composite cans or any paperboard packaging with plastic or metal closures, dispensers or attachments as Other Paper and Paperboard Packaging.

Kraft Paper &

Definition: Non-laminated bleached and unbleached kraft paper

Packaging	packaging either filled at point of sale or supplied to consumers as packaging. Kraft packaging with windows are included in this category, but not full lamination. <u>Examples:</u> Used for grocery bags, prescription bags, paper take-out/carry-out bags used for produce or food delivery, flour, sugar, potatoes, oatmeal, mailing packages. <u>Reporting Tips:</u> Report laminated kraft paper bags as Polycoated/ Laminated Paper.
Corrugated Cardboard	<u>Definition:</u> Corrugated cardboard is a paper-based packaging material composed of a fluted corrugated sheet sandwiched between one or two flat linerboards. It may be printed or laminated. <u>Examples:</u> Used for electronic products such as television and computer boxes, pizza boxes, bulk snack boxes, cat litter boxes, boxes used for transport of products to residential consumers. Includes moving boxes, shipping boxes and banker boxes. <u>Reporting Tips:</u> Exclude Corrugated Cardboard that is not supplied to consumers, including cardboard used exclusively as transportation and distribution packaging from place of manufacturing to place of distribution.
Paperboard & Moulded Fibre	<u>Definition:</u> Paperboard and moulded fibre are fibre-based materials commonly used in packaging and product protection, both derived from wood pulp or recycled paper. Paperboard is a thick, rigid paper material used for cartons, boxes, and printed packaging, the packaging may include plastic windows. Moulded fiber is shaped fibre used for protective packaging, trays, or containers. Laminated or wax-coated paperboard or moulded fibre is not included in this category. <u>Examples:</u> Used for cereal boxes, pasta, frozen pizza, tea cartons, chocolate, cosmetics, facial tissue, shoe boxes, egg cartons, bakery and pie boxes, electronics packaging, food service products, boxboard plates and moulded fibre plates. Include paperboard component in blister packs in this category. <u>Reporting Tips:</u> Report polycoated, laminated or wax coated paperboard or moulded fibre in the Polycoated/ Laminated Paperboard category. Report paperboard or moulded fibre with wax coating or plastic or metal closures, dispensers or attachments in the Other Paper and Paperboard Packaging category.
Other Paper & Paperboard Packaging	<u>Definition:</u> All paper, moulded fibre or paperboard packaging excluded from the other Paper categories such as paper or paperboard packaging coated with wax, any paper or paperboard packaging with plastic or metal closures, dispensers or attachments. <u>Examples:</u> Used for fibre spiral wound or composite containers with

laminated plastic and aluminum layers and steel bottoms used for: frozen juice, chips, cookie dough, coffee, nuts. Paperboard or moulded fibre packaging used for liquids with dispensers or closures.

Alternative Fibres

Definition: Alternative Fibre Packaging refers to packaging materials made from non-wood plant-based fibres as a substitute for traditional fibre, this includes bamboo, bagasse (sugarcane residue), wheat straw, or hemp used as substitutes for traditional wood pulp. The packaging may be laminated or non-laminated.

Examples: Used for trays, clamshells or containers, foodservice packaging made from alternative fibres.

Reporting Tips: Report Moulded fibre packaging (e.g., egg cartons) made from wood fibre in the Paperboard and Moulded Fibre Packaging category.

Rigid Plastic Packaging

Clear/Transparent Blue or Green PET Bottles, Jars and Jugs

Definition: Clear/ Transparent blue or green mono-material #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles, jars and jugs, which are unpigmented or translucent, containing non-beverage products. This material typically displays the #1 resin code. This category does not include bottles, jars or jugs with a non-PET full shrink sleeve.

Examples: Used for salad dressing bottles, peanut butter containers, cooking oil bottles, dish soap, shampoo, or mouthwash bottles, ready-to-drink infant formulas, dietary supplements and meal replacements, condensed or evaporated milk, whipping cream, coffee cream or other coffee additives, buttermilk, and other products not classified as a beverage.

Reporting Tips: Report any PET container that is not a bottle, jar or jug or thermoform container, is not mono-material PET, or uses a non-PET full shrink sleeve as Other PET Packaging. PET Thermoform containers should be reported in the relevant PET Thermoform category.

Clear/Transparent Blue or Green PET Bottles, Jars and Jugs – Beverage

Definition: Clear/ Transparent blue or green mono-material #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles, jars and jugs, which are unpigmented or translucent, containing beverage products. This material typically displays the #1 resin code. This category does not include bottles, jars or jugs with a non-PET full shrink sleeve.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), carbonated beverages, and juice.

Reporting Tips: Report any PET container that is not a bottle, jug, jar, or thermoform container, is not mono-material PET, or uses a non-PET full shrink sleeve as Other PET Packaging. PET Thermoform containers should be reported in the relevant PET Thermoform category.

Colour/Opaque PET
Bottles, Jars and Jugs

Definition: Colour/ Opaque mono-material #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles, jars and jugs, with added pigments to colour-distinct or block transparency used for non-beverage products. This material typically displays the #1 resin code. This category does not include bottles, jars or jugs with a non-PET full shrink sleeve or undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation.

Examples: Used for detergent, condiments, shampoo, ready-to-drink infant formulas, dietary supplements and meal replacements, condensed or evaporated milk, whipping cream, coffee cream or other coffee additives, buttermilk, and other products not classified as a beverage.

Reporting Tips: Report any PET container that is not a bottle, jug, jar, or thermoform container, is not mono-material PET, contains undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, or uses a non-PET full shrink sleeve as Other PET Packaging. PET Thermoform containers should be reported in the relevant PET Thermoform category.

Colour/Opaque PET
Bottles, Jars and Jugs
– Beverage

Definition: Colour/ Opaque mono-material #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles, jars and jugs, with added pigments to colour-distinct or block transparency used for beverages. This material typically displays the #1 resin code.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Reporting Tips: PET Thermoform containers should be reported in the relevant PET Thermoform category.

Clear/Transparent
Blue or Green PET
Thermoform
Containers

Definition: Clear/ Transparent blue or green mono-material #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) thermoform containers, which are unpigmented or translucent, such as trays and clamshells. This material typically displays the #1 resin code.

Examples: Clamshells used for muffins and other baked goods, salads, fruits and vegetables, prepared foods, snacks such as nuts and seeds, tray and lid used for cakes, egg containers, trays.

Reporting Tips: Report any PET container that is not a bottle, jug, jar, or thermoform container, is not mono-material PET, is foamed or

expanded PET or uses a non-PET full shrink sleeve as Other PET Packaging.

Colour/Opaque Thermoform Containers PET Definition: Colour/ Opaque mono-material #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) thermoform containers, with added pigments to colour-distinct or block transparency, such as trays and clamshells. This material typically displays the #1 resin code. This category does not include thermoform containers containing undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation.

Examples: Used for muffin or cake containers, salad containers, trays, beverage cups.

Reporting Tips: Report any PET container that is not a bottle, jug, jar, or thermoform container, is not mono-material PET, is foamed or expanded PET, contains undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, or uses a non-PET full shrink sleeve as Other PET Packaging.

Other PET Packaging Rigid Definition: PET packaging excluded from other PET categories due to their format, multi-material construction or barrier layer, use of undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, non-PET full shrink sleeves, or special formats, such as foamed or expanded PET. This category is for non-beverage products only.

Examples: Used for PET packaging with multi-material structure (ie: PET/EVOH or PET/PE trays), use of undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, non-PET full shrink sleeves, metal bottoms or lids, PET-glycol (PETg) packaging, expanded PET.

Reporting Tips: Report any beverage products meeting the above definition under Colour/Opaque PET Bottles, Jars and Jugs - Beverage.

Natural HDPE Bottles, Jars and Jugs Definition: Natural, mono-material #2 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) bottles, jars and jugs, that appear milky, cloudy, or translucent white, used for non-beverage products. This material typically displays the #2 resin code. This category does not include bottles, jars or jugs with a non-HDPE full shrink sleeve.

Examples: Used for non-beverage products like laundry detergent bottles, vinegar jugs, corn syrup, cleaning supply containers, bleach bottles, and household chemical packaging, bleach, body wash, etc.

Reporting Tips: Report HDPE packaging that is not a bottle, jar or jug, is not mono-material HDPE or has a non-HDPE full shrink sleeve as Other HDPE Packaging.

Natural HDPE Bottles, Jars and Jugs – Beverage Definition: Natural, mono-material #2 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) bottles, jars and jugs, that appear milky, cloudy, or translucent white, used for beverage products. This material typically

displays the #2 resin code. This category does not include bottles, jars or jugs with a non-HDPE full shrink sleeve.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Reporting Tips: Report HDPE packaging that is not a bottle, jar or jug, is not mono-material HDPE, or has a non-HDPE full shrink sleeve as Other HDPE Packaging.

Colour/Opaque HDPE
Bottles, Jars and Jugs

Definition: Colour or opaque, mono-material #2 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) bottles, jars and jugs, using pigments to create distinct colours or block transparency, used for non-beverage products. This material typically displays the #2 resin code. This category does not include bottles, jars or jugs with a non-HDPE full shrink sleeve or undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation.

Examples: Used for non-beverage products like laundry detergent bottles, shampoo containers, bleach, vinegar, corn syrup, body wash, nutritional supplement jars, and cleaning supply jugs.

Reporting Tips: Report HDPE packaging that is not a bottle, jar or jug, is not mono-material HDPE, or undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, or has a non-HDPE full shrink sleeve as Other HDPE Packaging.

Colour/Opaque HDPE
Bottles, Jars and Jugs
– Beverage

Definition: Colour or opaque, mono-material #2 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) bottles, jars and jugs, using pigments to create distinct colours or block transparency, used for beverage products. This material typically displays the #2 resin code.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Large Format HDPE
Rigid Packaging

Definition: Mono-material #2 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) packaging greater than or equal to 7.5 litres (2 gallons) in volume, used for bulk or wholesale applications. This material typically displays the #2 resin code.

Examples: Used for products sold in bulk or wholesale such as laundry detergent, cleaning agents, food ingredients or oils, heavy-duty tubs for bulk food items.

Other HDPE Rigid
Packaging

Definition: #2 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) packaging excluded from other HDPE categories, due to their format, multi-material

construction or barrier layer, full shrink sleeves, use of undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, or special formats. This category is for non-beverage products only.

Examples: Used for multi-material rigid HDPE packaging, HDPE containers with full shrink sleeve labels made of a different material, expanded HDPE (EPE) foam packaging used for cushioning or insulation, HDPE with undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, and HDPE tubes used for toothpaste, creams, gels, or adhesives, rigid HDPE plastic multi-pack rings.

Reporting Tips: Report multi-layer tubes in the Other Rigid Plastic Packaging category. Report any beverage products meeting the above definition under Colour/Opaque HDPE Bottles, Jars and Jugs – Beverage

PVC/ PVDC Rigid Packaging Definition: Coloured or transparent #3 PVC/PVDC (Polyvinyl Chloride/Polyvinylidene Chloride) packaging. This packaging may display resin code #3.

Examples: Used for blister packs, bottles, containers, or trays, etc.

PP Rigid Packaging Definition: Coloured or transparent, mono-material #5 PP (Polypropylene) packaging used for non-beverage products. This material typically displays the #5 resin code. This category does not include packaging with a full shrink sleeve or undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation.

Examples: Used for margarine, yogurt, or sour cream tubs and lids, flower pots, coffee cup lids.

Reporting Tips: Report PP packaging that is not mono-material PP, or undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, or has a shrink sleeve as Other PP Packaging.

PP Rigid Packaging – Beverage Definition: Coloured or transparent, mono-material #5 PP (Polypropylene) packaging used for beverage products. This material typically displays the #5 resin code. This category does not include packaging with a full shrink sleeve.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Reporting Tips: Report PP packaging that is not mono-material PP or has a shrink sleeve as Other PP Packaging.

Other PP Rigid Packaging Definition: PP (Polypropylene) packaging excluded from other PP categories, due to their format, multi-material construction, filling or

barrier layer, use of undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, full shrink sleeves, or special formats such as foamed or expanded PP. This category is for non-beverage products only.

Examples: Used for multi-material rigid PP packaging, PP packaging with full shrink sleeve, PP with undetectable black or carbon black pigmentation, expanded PP foam packaging used for cushioning or insulation.

Extruded/ Expanded PS - Food Packaging Definition: All forms of extruded or expanded polystyrene (XPS/EPS) packaging used in food packaging applications.

Examples: Used for meat or produce trays, take-out or foodservice containers or clamshells, hot beverage cups, plates for single-use dining, and bowls for soups, salads, or stews.

Reporting Tips: Report rigid or non-expanded PS (Polystyrene) packaging in the PS Rigid Packaging category. Report expanded PS used for non-food applications in the Expanded PS - Other category.

Expanded PS – Other Definition: All forms of expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging used in non-food packaging applications.

Examples: Used for electronics, appliances, foam shells for fragile items like glassware or medical devices, packing peanuts used to fill voids in shipping boxes, and custom-molded inserts for industrial equipment or consumer goods.

Reporting Tips: Report rigid or non-expanded PS (Polystyrene) packaging in the PS Rigid Packaging category. Report expanded PS used for food applications in the Extruded/ Expanded PS - Food Packaging category.

PS Rigid Packaging Definition: Coloured or transparent, mono-material #6 PP Polystyrene (PS) packaging used for non-beverage products. This material typically displays the #6 resin code. This category includes general-purpose polystyrene (GPPS) and high-impact polystyrene (HIPS).

Examples: Used for yogurt cups, single-serve butter containers, single-use coffee pods, coffee cup lids, cosmetic jars and compacts, and small food portion tubs for items like dips, spreads, or desserts.

PS Rigid – Beverage Definition: Coloured or transparent, mono-material #6 PP Polystyrene (PS) packaging used for beverage products. This material typically displays the #6 resin code. This category includes general-purpose polystyrene (GPPS) and high-impact polystyrene (HIPS).

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond

milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

PLA or
Degradable
Packaging

Other
Rigid

Definition: Non-certified compostable plastics, biodegradable and oxo-degradable rigid plastics used for non-beverage products, made from materials like PLA (polylactic acid), PHA (polyhydroxyalkanoates), PHB (polyhydroxybutyrate), or other degradable materials.

Examples: Used for clamshell containers for produce or baked goods or egg cartons, take-out food containers, and trays or bowls for ready-to-eat meals, or cannabis packaging.

Reporting Tips: Report rigid certified compostable packaging in Certified Compostable Rigid Plastic Packaging.

PLA or
Degradable
Packaging – Beverage

Other
Rigid

Definition: Non-certified compostable plastics, biodegradable and oxo-degradable rigid plastics used for beverage products, made from materials like PLA (polylactic acid), PHA (polyhydroxyalkanoates), PHB (polyhydroxybutyrate), or other degradable materials.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), carbonated beverages, and juice.

Reporting Tips: Report rigid certified compostable packaging in Certified Compostable Rigid Plastic Packaging.

Other Rigid
Packaging

Plastic

Definition: Rigid plastic packaging excluded from all other rigid plastic categories due to its unique material properties or specialized applications including packaging made from unknown resins, less common resins, such as #4 LDPE (low-density polyethylene), or multiple polymers or barrier layers. This material may display the #4 or #7 resin code or is unmarked. This category is used for non-beverage products.

Examples: Used for products packaged in polycarbonate, acrylic, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polyurethane, rigid low density polyethylene, or plastics that contain multiple polymers or barrier layers such as multi-material tubes for toothpaste, creams or gels, cosmetic packaging for makeup compacts or lotion dispensers, single-use coffee pods, plastic aerosol or spray containers for products like shaving cream or air fresheners, and other plastics labeled with Resin Identification Code #7.

Other Rigid
Packaging – Beverage

Plastic

Definition: Rigid plastic packaging excluded from all other rigid plastic categories due to its unique material properties or specialized applications including packaging made from unknown resins, less common resins, such as #4 LDPE (low-density polyethylene), or multiple polymers or barrier layers. This material may display the #4

or #7 resin code or is unmarked. This category is used for beverage products.

Examples: Used for products packaged in polycarbonate, acrylic, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polyurethane, rigid low density polyethylene, or plastics that contain multiple polymers or barrier layers used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Certified Compostable
Rigid Plastic
Packaging

Definition: All certified compostable rigid plastic packaging. Applicable certifications are CAN/BNQ 0017-088: Specifications for Compostable Plastics, ISO 17088: Specifications for compostable plastics, ASTM D6400: Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities, ASTM D6868: Standard Specification for Labeling of End Items that Incorporate Plastics and Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities, or EN 13432: Requirements for packaging recoverable through composting and biodegradation - Test scheme and evaluation criteria for the final acceptance of packaging.

Examples: Used for certified compostable rigid plastic like plates, bowls, trays, cutlery, straws, cup lids, plant pots, etc.

Reporting Tips: Report non-certified compostable packaging under PLA & Other Degradable Packaging Category.

Flexible Plastic Packaging

LDPE/HDPE
Transparent
Packaging

Flexible

Definition: Clear or transparent flexible packaging, film or bags containing a minimum of 90% LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE (Low Density, Linear Low Density, High Density Polyethylene) or a combination of LDPE/LLDPE/HDPE. Non-PE content must be compatible with PE recycling as per current industry guidance and not contain paper, degradable additives, or be foamed or expanded. This packaging may display resin code #2 or #4.

Examples: Used for carry-out bags, frozen vegetable bags, produce and bulk store bags, bread bags, food packaging wrap, shrink film, overwrap for multipacks, garment bags, protective sleeves for magazines, newspapers and documents, dry cleaner bags.

Reporting Tips: Transparent film refers to the base material for the packaging and not the amount of printing or ink used. Report packaging containing less than 90% LDPE/LLDPE/HDPE, foamed or expanded LDPE/HDPE or degradable additives in the Multi-

Material and Other Flexible Packaging category. Report flexible packaging containing a paper layer to the Polycoated/Laminated Paper category.

LDPE/HDPE Opaque
Flexible Packaging

Definition: Opaque flexible packaging, film or bags containing a minimum of 90% LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE (Low Density, Linear Low Density, High Density Polyethylene) or a combination of LDPE/LLDPE/HDPE. Non-PE content must be compatible with PE recycling as per current industry guidance and not contain paper, degradable additives, or be foamed or expanded. This packaging may display resin code #2 or #4.

Examples: Used for carry-out bags, frozen vegetable bags, produce and bulk store bags, bread bags, food packaging wrap, shrink film, overwrap for multipacks, garment bags, protective sleeves for magazines, newspapers and documents, diaper packaging, soil and fertilizer bags.

Reporting Tips: Opaque film refers to the base material and not the amount of printing or ink used. Report packaging containing less than 90% LDPE/LLDPE/HDPE, foamed or expanded LDPE/HDPE or degradable additives in the Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging category. Report flexible packaging containing a paper layer to the Polycoated/Laminated Paper category.

PP Flexible Packaging

Definition: Clear or opaque flexible packaging, film or bags containing a minimum of 90% PP (Polypropylene). Non-PP content must be compatible with PP recycling as per current industry guidance and not contain paper, degradable additives, or be foamed or expanded. This packaging may display resin code #5.

Examples: Used for non-beverage products like food and confectionery wrappers, flexible pouches for snacks or baked goods, grape, cherry and bell pepper zipper pouches, pasta and noodle bags, clothing packaging like garment bags/ wraps, and outer wraps for multipacks of food items like granola bars or candy.

Reporting Tips: Report packaging containing less than 90% PP or degradable additives in the Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging category. Report flexible packaging containing a paper layer to the Polycoated/Laminated Paper category.

PVC/ PVDC Flexible
Packaging

Definition: Clear and opaque flexible packaging made from PVC (polyvinyl chloride) or PVDC (polyvinylidene chloride). This packaging may display resin code #3.

Examples: Used for products like meat and dairy wraps, cling films, bags for bedding, curtains or other linens, shrink wrap for bundling perishable goods, and vacuum seal bags for cheese, deli meats, or prepared meals, especially where tight sealing and extended shelf life are required.

Reporting Tips: Multi-layer flexible packaging must be reported as Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging. Report flexible packaging containing a paper layer to the Polycoated/Laminated Paper category.

PLA and Other Degradable Flexible Packaging Definition: Non-certified compostable, biodegradable and oxo-degradable flexible plastics used for non-beverage products, made from materials like PLA (polylactic acid), PHA (polyhydroxyalkanoates), PHB (polyhydroxybutyrate), or other degradable materials.

Examples: Used for food wraps and bags, produce packaging, snack pouches, mailers, single-use sachets, cannabis packaging.

Reporting Tips: Report flexible certified compostable packaging in Certified Compostable Flexible Plastic Packaging.

Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging Definition: All flexible plastic packaging excluded from other flexible plastic categories due to its multi-material construction, expanded or foamed format, use of degradable additives, unknown multi-layer composition or flexible packaging made from PET. This category does not include flexible packaging laminated with paper. This category is used for non-beverage products.

Examples: Used for chip bags, coffee pouches, candy wrappers, pet food bags, soup pouches, stand-up pouches, cereal liner bags, shrink wrap, prepackaged deli meat pouches, yogurt stick packs, cannabis packaging, bubble or foamed wrap or bags, net bags used for citrus fruits, nuts or cosmetic samples, plastic or plastic/foil based wrapping paper and gift bags.

Reporting Tips: Report flexible packaging containing a paper layer to the Polycoated/Laminated Paper category.

Multi-Material and Other Flexible Packaging – Beverage Definition: All flexible plastic packaging excluded from other flexible plastic categories due to its multi-material construction, expanded or foamed format, use of degradable additives, unknown multi-layer composition or flexible packaging made from PET. This category does not include flexible packaging laminated with paper. This category is used for beverage products.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Reporting Tips: Report flexible packaging containing a paper layer to the Polycoated/Laminated Paper category.

Steel Packaging

Steel Aerosol Containers Definition: Steel or ferrous metal aerosol containers are pressurized packaging units containing more than 50% steel by weight, designed to dispense products in the form of a spray, mist, or foam.

Examples: Used for personal care products, household cleaners, air fresheners, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals etc.

Reporting Tips: Steel aerosol containers have their bottoms welded to the body of the container, which distinguishes them from aluminum bottles, whose entire surface is continuous since it is moulded. Do not report any packaging that is a designated material or category of packaging covered by other regulations, like [O. Reg. 298/12, Collection of Pharmaceuticals & Sharps](#), or [O. Reg 449/21 Hazardous & Special Products](#).

Steel Containers and Packaging Definition: Steel or ferrous metal containers and packaging refer to rigid packaging materials containing more than 50% steel by weight, used for non-beverage products.

Examples: Used for soups, sauces, vegetables, pet food, coffee, snacks, nuts and cannabis.

Steel Containers – Beverage Definition: Steel or ferrous metal containers and packaging refer to rigid packaging materials containing more than 50% steel by weight, used for beverage products.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Aluminum Packaging

Aluminum Aerosol Containers Definition: Aluminum aerosol containers are pressurized metal packaging units containing more than 95% aluminum by weight, designed to dispense products in the form of a spray, mist, or foam.

Examples: Used for personal care products, household cleaners, air fresheners, pharmaceuticals etc.

Reporting Tips: Steel aerosol containers have their bottoms welded to the body of the container, which distinguishes them from aluminum bottles, whose entire surface is continuous since it is moulded. Do not report any packaging that is a designated

material or category of packaging covered by other regulations, like [O. Reg 449/21 Hazardous & Special Products](#).

Aluminum Containers and Packaging

Definition: Aluminum containers refers to rigid or semi-rigid packaging materials made primarily from aluminum, used to contain, protect, preserve, or present products. This category is used for non-beverage products.

Examples: Foil trays for frozen foods or bakery products, lids and seals, foil wraps, yogurt/sour cream seals, and pet food or cannabis containers.

Aluminum Containers – Beverage

Definition: Aluminum containers refers to rigid or semi-rigid packaging materials made primarily from aluminum, used to contain, protect, preserve, or present products. This category is used for beverage products. Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Reporting Tips: Aluminum containers and packaging differ from steel containers and packaging in that they are nonferrous (non-magnetic.). Steel aerosol containers have their bottoms welded to the body of the container, which distinguishes them from aluminum bottles, whose entire surface is continuous since it is moulded.

Glass Packaging

Glass Packaging

Definition: Glass packaging refers to rigid containers that are 50% or more glass by weight, used to store, protect, and present non-beverage products. This category includes clear, coloured and serigraphic glass.

Examples: Used for pickles, sauces, jams or cosmetics, cannabis packaging, candle jars. Bottles for cooking oils, vinegars, spices. This category includes serigraphic glass. Includes packaging-like products, like empty glass containers for home use in pickling, sauces or jams.

Reporting Tips: Excludes containers made of Pyrex, ceramics or crystal – these are Ceramics and Porcelain and are therefore exempt in Ontario.

Glass Packaging – Beverage

Definition: Glass packaging refers to rigid containers that are 50% or more glass by weight, used to store, protect, and present beverage products. This category includes clear, coloured and serigraphic glass.

Examples: Used for ready-to-serve beverage products like milk, flavoured milk (where milk appears as one of the first three ingredients in the ingredient list) and milk substitutes such as rice milk, almond milk, soy milk, coconut milk (or any other milk substitute that comes from grains, nuts or vegetables), and juice.

Reporting Tips: Excludes containers made of Pyrex, ceramics or crystal – these are Ceramics and Porcelain and are therefore exempt in Ontario.

Note: The broader Harmonized Producer Reporting Categories does include categories for (1) Books, (2) Cork and Wood Packaging, (3) Natural Textiles, (4) Synthetic Textiles, and (5) Ceramic and Porcelain. These five categories in the Harmonized Producer Reporting Categories are out of scope of O. Reg. 391/21: Blue Box. As a result, Appendix A only lists 57 of the 62 Harmonized Producer Reporting Categories.