

Sustainability Policy on Packaging

1. Introduction

Smart and effective use of packaging contributes to reducing the environmental impact of food, by reducing spoilage and food waste. At the same time, we realize that packaging also has a negative impact on the environment. On the one hand, by obtaining the raw materials for making the packaging, the energy that is used in the production process of packaging and on the other hand, by the waste that arises immediately after the consumer has removed the product from the packaging. This packaging policy was developed together with The LCA centre.

In order to achieve the optimum balance between the advantages and disadvantages of the use of the packaging, Nature's Pride takes into account the following factors:

1. Functionality
2. Compliance
3. Circular compatibility
4. Environmental impact




Source: The LCA Centre

2. What is sustainable packaging?

Sustainable packaging is packaging that fulfils its task in the most efficient way. **The best way to do this always relates to the functionality of that particular packaging and might vary for each product.**

Working towards more sustainable packaging can be achieved by reducing the use of materials or the use of alternative materials, which have the same functionality with a lower environmental impact. However, the omission of materials or less materials can never be at the expense of shelf life or the protection of the product, because its environmental impact is many times greater than the packaging itself. A packaging innovation must take place in the context of the entire supply chain in order to avoid unintended negative effects within the system.

	<p style="text-align: center;">A.01.10 Packaging Policy Appendix 6 of R.01.48 Supplier Agreement</p>	<p>Version: 2.0 Page: 2 van 5 Date: 01-07-2020</p>
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3. Compliance

All food packaging meet requirements from the following European and national legislation:

- Commission Regulation (EC) 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.
- Commission Regulation (EC) 282/2008 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.
- Commission Regulation (EC) 2023/2006 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.
- Directive (EC) 94/62 on rules for packaging and packaging waste with all subsequent additions (Decision management of packaging 2014)
- Directive (EC) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

Our sustainable packaging is also in accordance with the guidelines of:

- [United Nations Sustainable Developments Goals \(UNSDGs\)](#)
- [European Strategy for plastic in a circular economy](#)
- [G7 Plastics Charter](#)
- Dutch Transition agendas ([plastics](#), [biomass](#))

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4. Sustainable Packaging Principles of Nature's Pride

1. **Re-usable packaging:** Use of multi-use transport packaging is preferred when research has shown that it is beneficial to the environment.
2. **Circular material use:** packaging materials have to be made of materials that can be collected in an existing industrial process where they can be sorted and recycled.
3. **Mono-materials:** packaging materials need to be made of mono materials or packaging materials that can easily be removed by hand.
4. **Tags and labels:** The desired use of labelling material differs per type of packaging material. In general, the label must be made from the same material as the largest component of the packaging in order to not hinder recycling
 - For paper / carton /PET = paper labels
 - For BOPP film = BOPP labels
 - For labels directly applied on fruits/vegetables = compostable materials (paper or compostable plastic)

For a detailed explanation of the use of stickers on packaging materials please see the [recycle check](#) of [the Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging](#) (KIDV).
5. **Plastic:** Nature's Pride prefers not to use plastic packaging materials, only if it is necessary to extend shelf life of a product. Where possible Nature's Pride uses Food grade rPet and indicates this on the packaging when we have certificates available that prove this.
6. **Responsible Sourcing of paper / cardboard:** Responsible sourcing of packaging materials takes into account both the social and environmental aspects of the supply chain. The relevant criteria are recognized certification schemes, and comply with legal requirements and environmental and social policy guidelines (UN, EU and NL). We use [FSC](#) / [PEFC](#) certification for paper and cardboard packaging materials. Where possible, technically and food safety wise, Nature's Pride prefers the use of recycled paper or cardboard. If sugarcane bagasse fibre – as a waste product and only if it is packed at origin - is used for the production of paper or carton, it needs to be proved that that the sugarcane is grown responsibly, for example by [Bonsucro certification](#)
7. **Recycle logos:** We find it important that our packaging materials are re-used and disposed of properly, to contribute to the prevention of litter and an optimal recycling process. Because our products are distributed to various countries in Europe, unfortunately we cannot use the logos of the Dutch disposal guide. We do mention the type of packaging material on the packaging and we refer to our disposal guide on our consumer website. For our 10 most important client countries, their national recycling guidelines are mentioned.

<https://www.eatme.nl/weggooiwijzer>
<https://www.eatme.eu/disposalguide>
<https://www.eatme.de/entsorgungseinfaden>

When we use symbols on packaging, we use the [factsheet symbols](#) of the KIDV as a reference. This is the last version of September 2019.

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5. Overview of authorized and unauthorized materials

Authorized materials	Unauthorized materials
<p>FSC / PEFC paper and cardboard*</p> <p>Food grade rPET</p> <p>Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)**</p> <p>Polypropylene (PP)</p> <p>(High-density) Polyethylene (HD)PE</p> <p>(Low-density) Polyethylene (LD)PE</p> <p>(LDPE / LLDPE / MDPE) for example for liners or wrapping film</p> <p>Sugarcane bagasse carton / paper***</p>	<p>PVC</p> <p>Polystyreen (PS)</p> <p>Oxo degradable materials</p> <p>Polylactic acid (PLA)</p> <p>Water-soluble materials</p> <p>Industrial and home compostable materials; unless there is a clear co-benefit****</p> <p>Wood / bamboo / palm leaf</p> <p>Pulp / Sugarcane bagasse pulp</p> <p>Aluminium and steel</p> <p>Glass</p> <p>Double-sided coated paper</p> <p>Complex laminates</p> <p>Black coloured (carbon black) plastic</p> <p>Paper with a layer of aluminium</p> <p>Coloured stretch film / pallet wrap foil</p>

*) In some countries, single-sided PE coated cardboard is allowed in paper recycling

**) Food Grade rPET is preferred over PET, however, this is currently not well recyclable in flexible form therefore we prefer PP or PE

***) Bagasse fibers can – as a waste product and only if it is used for packaging at origin – be used for the production of paper and carton, but only if there is enough evidence that the sugarcane is grown responsibly, for example using a [Bonsucro certification](#)

****) In principle only for stickers that are directly applied on fruits and vegetables

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6. Why are these materials unauthorized?

Unauthorized materials	Reason
PVC	Difficult to recycle as packaging material. Disrupts the recycling of other materials. Toxic substances are released during combusting.
Polystyrene (PS)	Difficult to recycle as packaging material because of low volume.
Oxo degradable materials	It is on the list of unauthorized materials (SUP Guideline).
Polylactic acid (PLA)	Difficult to recycle as packaging material. Disrupts the recycling of other materials.
Water-soluble materials	Difficult to recycle as packaging material. Disrupts the recycling of other materials.
Wood / bamboo / palm leaf	Impossible/difficult to recyclable – preferably cardboard
Pulp	Unefficient use of materials – preferably cardboard
Sugarcane bagasse	Unefficient use of materials – preferably cardboard
Aluminium and steel	Heavy / fragile / not suitable for appliance
Glass	Heavy / fragile / not suitable for appliance
Double-sided coated paper	Difficult to recycle
Complex laminates	Difficult to recycle
Industrial compostable materials *	Difficult to recycle, certificates only indicate theoretical recyclability
Home compostable materials *	Difficult to recycle
Black coloured (carbon black) plastic	Difficult to sort for recycling in consumer packaging. For secondary packaging this does not have to be a constraint when this waste stream is offered separately for recycling
Staples in boxes	Difficult to recycle
Paper with a layer of aluminium	Difficult to recycle
PVC tape	Difficult to recycle
Coloured stretch film / pallet wrap foil	Difficult to recycle

* Unless there is a clear co-benefit: only if there is a clear linkage between the product and the package, like for example with stickers applied directly on fruits and vegetables or when an additional benefit is that it results in the collection of more vegetables-, fruit- and garden waste (GFT afval). See also: Factsheet: [biodegradable plastic packaging materials](#). Source: [KIDV](#)