

Calculation of recycled plastic content in PET bottles

Published by AGRINFO on 14 Jul 2025

Draft Commission Implementing Decision laying down rules for the application of Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the calculation, verification and reporting of data on recycled plastic content in single-use plastic beverage bottles and repealing Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2683, and Draft Annex

What is changing and why?

The European Commission has proposed a methodology to calculate the recycled content in polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles from all recycling technologies. This proposal extends the existing methodology for mechanical recycling (e.g. shredding and melting, Decision 2023/2683) to other recycling technologies, especially chemical recycling.

This proposed methodology is intended to apply to:

- all recycled plastic parts contained in the body, cap, lid, labels, and sleeves of bottles
- recycled plastic content that comes from waste generated from plastic products placed on the European Union (EU) market (“post-consumer plastic waste”).

Plastic waste from production or manufacturing waste is not included in the proposed calculation. Recycled plastic content does not include plastic waste that has been used as a source of energy for the recycling process.

The amount of recycled plastic content in PET bottles – expressed as a percentage – is calculated by dividing the weight of the recycled plastic in these bottles by the weight of the total plastic parts of the bottles.

For PET bottles sold in the EU that include recycled plastic from outside the EU, EU authorities will verify the accuracy of the information accompanying the material.

Agri-food exporters of PET beverage bottles to the EU must provide **declarations of recycled plastic content** using the template in Annex V.

Operators recycling plastic that is to be incorporated into PET bottles will have to request third-party verification of the most complex stages of the recycling process every year (every 3 years for small and medium-sized enterprises, SMEs).

EU Member State authorities will conduct risk-based controls. Operators will be responsible for checking their business partners’ self-declarations on the recycled content of PET bottles.

This calculation methodology will serve as a model for future rules on recycled content in other sectors (see [Review of packaging and packaging waste rules](#)).

Actions

Feedback on this proposal closed on 19 August 2025.

Timeline

The adoption of this methodology is planned for autumn 2025.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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