

Introduction | Criteria for packaging

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Packaged products

If your business offers a packaged product¹ on the Dutch market and/or imports it into the Netherlands, the packaging must comply with the [Packaging Decree](#) (Besluit Beheer Verpakkingen). The essential requirements and maximum permissible levels of heavy metals, amongst others, form part of that. The obligations in this Decree stem from European Directive [94/62/EG](#) on Packaging and Packaging Waste. They are intended to systematically reduce the environmental burden of packaging and packaging waste. Your company plays an important role in this.

This series of factsheets goes into further detail about the way in which your company can comply with the relevant regulations in practice. In addition, it details the role of the supervisory body, the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate.

Continual improvement of the sustainability of your packaging

To reduce the environmental impact of your packaging and packaging waste, the Decree requires your company to comply with a number of obligations, such as:

- The essential requirements.
- Packaging may contain a maximum of 100 ppm² heavy metals³. Reducing the use of heavy metals as far as possible, limits the health and environmental risks.
- If your company uses an identification code on packaging to identify the material used, this code must comply with the regulations⁴.

Packaging Waste Management Contribution

Does your company generate 50,000 kilograms or more of packaging material on the Dutch market annually? Then you must join the [Packaging Waste Fund](#) (Afvalfonds Verpakkingen). You also need to pay Packaging Waste Management Contribution.

More information about this can be found on the Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging website or on the Packaging Waste Fund website.

However, the obligations specified in the Decree apply to companies whether or not they generate more or less than 50,000 kilograms of packaging material on the Dutch market annually.

The Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging

In addition to the obligations in the Decree, the Framework Agreement for Packaging 2013-2022⁵ contains agreements about continual improvement of the sustainability of packaging, such as the sector innovation plans. The industry is closely involved in these.

The Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging was established to assist businesses in improving the sustainability of packaging. The provision of information is an important pillar for the institute. These factsheets are part of that provision of information.

The factsheets will be updated regularly.

Further information

The Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packaging (KIDV) has produced a series of factsheets on the criteria for packaging, such as the so-called essential requirements. This series consists of seven factsheets.

You can download the factsheets from our website, www.kidv.nl (Library – Factsheets).

You can find the footnotes for this factsheet on the reverse.



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¹ The word 'product' in this factsheet refers to all conceivable products and food products, with end users being consumers and/or companies.

² ppm=parts per million (100 ppm = 100 mg per kg)

³ For legislation pertaining to heavy metals, see article 11 of the European Directive on Packaging: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:31994L0062&from=EN>.

Also see [Factsheet | Heavy metals in packaging](#)

⁴ For the use of identification on packaging, see article 12 of the Packaging Decree.

Also see: [Factsheet | Identification of packaging](#)

⁵ The Framework Agreement can be found in the Library at the Netherlands Institute for Sustainable Packagingwebsite , or at rijksoverheid.nl.

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