

Definitions

What is Printed Paper?

For the purposes of producer obligation and reporting under the Stewardship Ontario Program, printed paper includes:

- any material that is not packaging, but is printed with text or graphics as a medium for communicating information, supplied to consumers, and includes, but is not limited to:
- newspapers, including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels;
- daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly glossy magazines including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels;
- directories, including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels;
- lottery tickets and lottery information;
- warranty information, assembly instructions, product use instructions and health information, product registration cards and promotional information that is found inside purchased products;
- envelopes, statements and information inserts from banks, credit companies, utilities, service providers, etc.;
- information, forms and promotional materials distributed by municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments;
- promotional calendars, posters that are distributed to consumers free of charge;
- unsolicited promotional information, coupons, handbills and flyers; and
- transportation and transit schedules.

Please refer to the Stewardship Ontario [Program Plan](#) or the [Rules](#) for more information on designated materials for the Stewardship Ontario program.

In order to provide stewards with more specificity around

the definition of printed paper and for the purposes of harmonization across programs, the printed paper category will be defined as: paper, regardless of its cellulosic fibre source including but not limited to: wood, wheat, rice, cotton, bananas, eucalyptus, bamboo, hemp and sugar cane (bagasse) fibre sources.

Printed paper does not include bound reference books, bound literary books, or bound text books.

What is Packaging?

'Packaging' for the purposes of the Stewardship Ontario Blue Box Program refers to:

- a. Materials that are used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery or presentation of goods supplied to consumers, and includes, but is not limited to, service packaging and all packaging components and ancillary elements integrated into the Packaging.
- b. Service packaging refers to packaging which may or may not bear a brand that is supplied at the point of sale by the retail, food-service or other service providers to facilitate the delivery of goods, and includes all bags, boxes, and other items for the containment of goods at point of sale.
- c. "Supplied" means sold, leased, donated, disposed of, used, transferred the possession of or title of, or otherwise made available to a Consumer in Ontario or distributed for use by a Consumer in Ontario.
- d. "Consumer" means an individual (other than a Person in the Industrial, Commercial, or Institutional (IC&I) sector) to whom Designated Blue Box Waste is Supplied.

Please refer to the Stewardship Ontario [Program Plan](#) or the [Rules](#) for more information on designated materials for the Stewardship Ontario program.

Items shall be considered packaging if they fulfil the definition above without prejudice to other functions which the packaging might also perform, unless the item is an integral part of a product and all elements are intended to be consumed or disposed of together.

In order to provide stewards with more specificity around the definition of packaging and for the purposes of harmonization across programs, designated packaging is hereafter defined as:

Packaging that accompanies consumer goods which are meant for purchase by residential consumers, are likely to enter the home and ultimately be managed by residential municipal waste management systems. This would include:

- a material or substance (such as, but not exclusively, glass, metal, paper, boxboard, cardboard, textile,

paper fibre or plastic or any combination of those materials) that is used to protect, contain, transport a product to a residential consumer;

- grouped or secondary packaging that goes to the household;
- packaging used in the transport of mail order items that are delivered directly to a consumer's home.

Stewards should refer to the definition of each material category when determining which category their printed paper or packaging should be reported under. Examples provided under each material reporting category are provided for illustrative purposes only and should not be used to definitively establish the correct reporting category.

Printed Paper

Material List-Subcategory	ON	Definitions, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
Newspaper – CNA/OCNA Members	✓	<p>Definition: Only includes newspapers that are listed as members in good standing of News Media Canada (formerly Canadian Newspaper Association CNA) or the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) as of January 1st of the obligation year.</p> <p>Examples: Newspapers that are members in good standing with News Media Canada or the OCNA for the calendar year being reported.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Circulars or inserts made of newsprint should be reported under Other Newsprint-Non-CNA/OCNA Members. Stewards should report film contained around newspapers for protection as LDPE/ HDPE Film, PLA, PHA, BHP - Plastic Film or as Plastic Laminates - Non-Beverage if made other film. Newsprint used as product packaging should be reported under Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging.</p>
Other Newsprint - Non CNA/OCNA Members	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all newspaper titles that are not listed as a member of either the Canadian News Media Association (formerly Canadian Newspaper Association (CNA), or of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA). Also includes all other newsprint material not used as packaging including circulars, flyers and inserts made of newsprint. This includes circulars, flyers and inserts distributed by both News Media Canada/OCNA and non-News Media Canada/OCNA member.</p> <p>Examples: Non-CNA/OCNA newspaper publications, CNA/OCNA and non-CNA/ OCNA members' newsprint inserts, circulars. Promotional information, flyers, park guides, auto publications or real estate, supplements printed on newsprint.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Newsprint used as product packaging should be reported under Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging. Stewards should report film contained around newspapers for protection as either LDPE/HDPE Film, PLA, PHA, BHP - Plastic Film or as Plastic Laminates - Non-Beverage if made from other film. Newsprint used as product packaging should be reported under Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging.</p>

Material List-Subcategory	ON	Definitions, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
Magazines and Catalogues	✓	<p>Definition: Magazines: Bound periodicals, whether the paper coated, glossy or not, which typically include mastheads. Catalogues: Bound paper, whether the paper is coated, glossy or not.</p> <p>Examples: Includes daily/weekly/monthly or annual magazines & travel or promotional magazines, retailer product catalogues, coupon books automotive and real estate guides/catalogues, bound product manuals (if not printed on newsprint).</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Report film contained around catalogues for protection as either LDPE/HDPE Film, PLA, PHA, BHP - Plastic Film or as Plastic Laminates - Non-Beverage if made of other film. Report cardstock subscription renewals under Other Printed Materials. Unbound product manuals and user guides should be reported under Other Printed Materials. Unbound or bound magazines comprised of newsprint should be reported under Other Newsprint - Non-CNA/OCNA Members. Bound printed directories that include business or residential contact information should be reported under Directories.</p>
Directories	✓	<p>Definition: Printed bound directories, whether printed on newsprint, glossy/non-glossy paper of residential and/or business contact information such as telephone numbers, postal codes and websites.</p> <p>Examples: Phone books.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Excludes other types of bound reference books.</p>
Other Printed Materials	✓	<p>Definition: All other printed paper/material that is not included in the printed paper categories above.</p> <p>Examples: Blank and printed envelopes distributed to the residential consumer; promotional cards sent to the residential consumer; free promotional calendars and posters; activity work books, colouring books, comic books, puzzle books; promotional inserts within or outside envelopes; printed information found within packaged products (such as assembly instructions, user guides, promotional information, warranty cards, product safety information, coupons); annual policy information including policy documents and statements; monthly, quarterly or annual statements; investment fund reports, fund prospectus, contracts, lottery tickets scratch cards, and fund raising tickets; cash register receipts, debit and credit card receipts, proof of purchases and other printed material provided at point of sale such as promotional post cards; statements and information inserts from banks, credit card companies and utility companies; information and forms distributed by municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments; transportation and transit schedules, HR related documents distributed to employees such as T4s.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Purchased blank or printed envelopes, copier/printer paper, greeting cards, day timers, note books, calendars, posters, soft or hard cover fiction or non-fiction books sold as products to the residential consumer are excluded because they are products that look like packaging and are not included in the program. However, if these products are not purchased products, but provided as a promotional item or as service packaging then the items must be reported.</p> <p>Stewards should report LDPE or HDPE film protective wrap surrounding a purchased calendar or any promotional inserts in a purchased calendar, but not the purchased calendar. Clothing hang tags and any other printed material that is intended to be used as product packaging should be reported under Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging.</p>

Paper Packaging

Material List-Subcategory	ON	Definitions, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
Gable Top Containers	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all gable top polycoated cartons.</p> <p>Examples: Milk and cream cartons, juice cartons, molasses cartons, sugar cartons.</p>
Aseptic Containers	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all aseptic polycoated and foilized boxes and containers.</p> <p>Examples: Juice boxes, soup containers, tetrapack containers.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Stewards should not report the actual straw on a juice box as it is a product that serves no packaging function.</p>
Paper Laminates	✓	<p>Definition: Includes laminated or coated paper packaging where paper is the main component along with either metalized foil/wax/plastic. The paper component represents the greatest percentage by weight.</p> <p>Examples: Fibre spiral wound containers (with plastic, aluminum, steel bottom and lid) for frozen juice, chips, cookie dough and hot chocolate, non-foam paper drink cups (hot and cold), microwavable paper containers, paper ice cream cartons, paper cups/bowls provided for soups, paper wrap packaging provided with food, such as sandwiches, burgers, or muffins, Kraft paper carry-out bags, all Kraft paper bags with an outside/inside lining such as pet food bags, laminated Kraft paper bags (filled at point of sale).</p> <p>Reporting Tips: When plastic is the main component, stewards should report the packaging under Plastic Laminate.</p>
Corrugated Cardboard	✓	<p>Definition: Includes multi-layered paper board and fibre board with a layer of corrugation in the middle. Also includes all types (with or without text, bleached or dyed) of non-laminated Kraft paper packaging without the inside/outside lining.</p> <p>Examples: Electronic product boxes such as television and computer boxes, pizza boxes, Kraft wrapping paper for mailing packages, brown grocery bags, prescription bags, paper take-out bags used for mushrooms or food delivery, Kraft bags for food such as flour, sugar, potatoes or oatmeal; boxes used to direct mail for residential consumers.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Exclude Corrugated Cardboard used exclusively as transportation and distribution packaging from place of manufacturing to place of distribution and is not intended for use in the home and will not enter the residential consumer waste stream. Non-corrugated paperboard and fibre board containers should be reported under Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging.</p>
Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging	✓	<p>Definition: Single layered paperboard and fibre board with no corrugation and all types of moulded pulp paper packaging. Also includes any paper packaging not included in any other Paper Packaging subcategories.</p> <p>Examples: Paper board such as cereal, tissue and shoe boxes, moulded pulp paper packaging such as egg cartons, fibre pots, and formed coffee take-out trays, stiff paperboard used to mount plastic blister packs (e.g., for toys and batteries), the roll inside of toilet paper, paper towel, tin foil and plastic wrap, tissue paper used as paper packaging for stuffing packaging, newsprint used as packaging material in shoe boxes and shipping boxes used for direct mail to residential customers, clothing hang tags.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Exclude toilet paper and paper towels purchased as products. Stewards should report the stiff paperboard used to mount plastic blister packs under Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging. Non-laminated kraft paper packaging <u>without</u> inside/outside linings should be reported under Corrugated Cardboard. Kraft paper packaging <u>with</u> an outside/inside lining should be reported under Paper Laminates.</p>

Plastic Packaging

Material-Subcategory	ON	Definition, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
PET Bottles	✓	<p>Definition: Includes transparent and/or coloured #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles and jars.</p> <p>Examples: Soft drinks, water & juice bottles, iced tea, salad dressing bottles, peanut butter jars.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: All forms of PET that are not bottles, jugs or jars, such as a PET thermoform, should be reported under Other Plastic Packaging or Other Plastic Packaging ≥ 5 litres.</p>
PET Bottles ≥ 5 Litres	✓	<p>Definition: Includes transparent and/ or coloured #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles and jars containing 5 litres or more by volume.</p> <p>Examples: Non-refillable Water bottles.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: All forms of PET that are not bottles, jugs or jars, such as a PET thermoform, should be reported under Other Plastic Packaging or Other Plastic Packaging ≥ 5 litres.</p>
HDPE Bottles, Jars and Jugs	✓	<p>Definition: Includes natural or coloured #2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) bottles, jugs and jars.</p> <p>Examples: Laundry detergent, bleach, vinegar, milk jugs, personal care products such as shampoos, conditioners and body wash, antifreeze containers, cleaning supplies.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: All forms of HDPE that are not bottles, jars or jugs, such as tubs and pails, should be reported under Other Plastic Packaging or Other Plastic Packaging ≥ 5 litres.</p>
HDPE Bottles, Jars and Jugs ≥ 5 Litres	✓	<p>Definition: Includes natural or coloured #2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) bottles and jugs containing 5 litres or more.</p> <p>Examples: Laundry detergent, bleach, cleaning supplies.</p>
LDPE/ HDPE Film	✓	<p>Definition: Includes plastic film made from LDPE, LLDPE, HDPE (Low Density, Linear Low Density, High Density Polyethylene) or combinations thereof. May display resin code #4 or #2. PE films reported under this category must not contain any barrier layers or other non-PE resins.</p> <p>Examples: May include certain fresh and frozen vegetable bags, milk bags, diaper packaging, bread bags, shrink wrap around products (e.g., around a tray of 24 water bottles), dry cleaner bags, soil and fertilizer bags, produce and bulk store bags provided to the residential consumer as service packaging, film used around newspapers and magazines and catalogues for protection.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Do not report film used exclusively as transportation and distribution packaging that is not intended for use or management in the home. Any LDPE/HDPE film that is in the form of a carry-out bag supplied to the residential consumer as service packaging should be reported under LDPE / HDPE Film – Carry- Out Bags.</p>
LDPE/ HDPE Film Carry - Out Bags (Reported in kg)	✓	<p>Definition: Includes #4 LDPE or #2 HDPE (Low Density or High Density Polyethylene) film carry-out bags only provided at point of sale. May display resin code #4 or #2</p> <p>Examples: LDPE or HDPE plastic shopping bags with or without images or text.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: LDPE or /HDPE film that is not a carry-out bag should be reported under LDPE / HDPE Film. Carry out bags that are not LDPE or HDPE film should be reported under Plastic Laminates. Fabric bags which are intended for more than one use and are supplied to the residential consumer as service packaging should be reported under Natural & Synthetic Textiles. Non-woven plastic bags which are intended for more than one use and are supplied to the residential consumer as service packaging should be reported under Plastic Laminates.</p>

Material-Subcategory	ON	Definition, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
Expanded Polystyrene	✓	<p>Definition: All forms of expanded polystyrene foam packaging used in food and consumer product packaging applications and may display resin code #6.</p> <p>Examples: Foam take-out containers, foam meat trays, hot or cold beverage cups, foam packaging such as foam packing “peanuts”.</p>
Non-Expanded Polystyrene	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all forms of plastic packaging #6 Polystyrene that is not covered in the Expanded Polystyrene category above.</p> <p>Examples: Polystyrene clear clamshell containers such as berry and muffin containers, opaque clamshell containers such as food take-out containers, yogurt containers, clear rigid trays, service packing beverage cups and plates, small milk or cream containers for hot beverages, plastic hangers when provided to the consumer as service packaging with an item of clothing.</p>
Other Plastic Packaging	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all forms of rigid plastic packaging that is #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) #2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene), #3 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) plastic, #4 LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene), #5 PP (Polypropylene), and #7 other plastics that are not included in any of the plastic sub-categories above. Also includes non-coded plastics. May include resin code #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7.</p> <p>Examples: Hand cream tubes, margarine, sour cream cottage cheese and yogurt tubs & lids, microwaveable food trays, soup or rice pouches, expanded foam such as foam protective inserts, sheets and moulds for packing appliances, mint or candy dispensers, clam shell packaging, plastic blister packaging used to display toys, batteries or other products, hand sanitizer bottles and pumps, plastic egg cartons, plastic hangers when provided to the consumer as service packaging with an item of clothing, food netting such as netted bags used to package citrus fruits and cosmetic samples.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Include #3 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) and non-coded plastics previously reported under the “Disrupter Plastics” category.</p>
Other Plastic Packaging ≥ 5 Litres	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all forms of rigid plastic packaging that is #1 PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) #2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene), #3 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) plastic, #4 LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene), #5 PP (Polypropylene), and #7 other plastics that are not included in any of the plastic sub-categories above. Also includes non-coded plastics. May include resin code #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7.</p> <p>Examples: Tubs or pails of pet products such as litter or food, pails of antifreeze or road salt.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Include #3 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) and non-coded plastics previously reported under the “Disrupter Plastics” category.</p>
Plastic Laminates	✓	<p>Definition: All laminated film and laminated flexible plastic packaging comprised of multiple plastic resin types and/ or combinations of plastic resins and metalized foils, wax, and/or paper. This material category also includes mono-material such as those made of PET, PP, PVC, EVA and other films that do not meet the definition of LDPE/HDPE Film or PLA, PHA, PHB – Plastic film.</p> <p>Examples: Woven or non-woven plastic bags intended for more than one use, candy wrappers, coffee pouches, chip bags, cheese wraps, cereal liner bags, shrink wrap, pre-packaged deli meat pouches, yogurt stick packs, vacuum packaging, bubble wrap, mailing film, dry pasta packaging, gum blister packaging, stand-up pouches.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Report any complimentary synthetic plastic bags intended for more than one use that are supplied to the residential consumer. Do not report purchased bags intended for more than one use and not supplied to the residential consumer as service packaging. Fabric bags which are intended for more than one use and supplied to the residential consumer as service packaging should be reported under Natural and Synthetic Textiles. All #3 PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) and non-coded plastics should be reported under Other Plastic Packaging.</p>

Material-Subcategory	ON	Definition, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
PLA, PHA, PHB	✓	<p>Definition: Plastic packaging consisting of bio-plastics made of PLA (Polylactic Acid or Polylactide), PHA (Polyhydroxyalcanoates), PHB (Poly-3 Hydroxybutyrate) polymers.</p> <p>Examples: PHA hot drink cups and soup cans, PLA yogurt containers, PLA chip bags, PLA egg containers, PLA clamshells containers, PLA bags for vegetables or salad, PLA carry-out bags, other bio-plastic films.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: These materials were previously reported under the Disrupter Plastics category.</p>
Natural and Synthetic Textiles	✓	<p>Definition: Includes natural based textile packaging whether woven, beaten, knitted or otherwise manufactured.</p> <p>Examples: Fabric bags intended for more than one use provided as service packaging, butcher string, ribbons, organza bags, synthetic garment bags.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: If a natural fabric bag (such as a bag made of cotton or burlap) which is intended for more than one use is supplied free of charge as service packaging, then the item is included and must be reported under Natural and Synthetic Textiles. Complimentary synthetic plastic bags intended for more than one use that are supplied to the consumer as service packaging should be reported under Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage. Do not report purchased bags which are intended for more than one use and are not supplied to the residential consumer as service packaging as they are products that look like packaging.</p>



Steel Packaging

Material List-Subcategory	ON	Definitions, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
Steel Aerosol Containers	✓	<p>Definition: All aerosol containers that are more than 50% by weight of steel.</p> <p>Examples: Air freshener, deodorant and hairspray containers, food spray cans, solvent spray cans, wax and polish spray cans, lubricating oil spray cans, insulating foam spray cans.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Aluminum aerosol containers should be reported under Aluminum Aerosol Containers.</p>
Steel Paint Cans	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all sizes of paint and coatings cans that are more than 50% by weight of steel or other metal.</p> <p>Examples: Paint and coating cans, sealers, protective coatings (roof and rust coatings), varnish, stains.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Stewards should report all types of paint and or coating cans that are supplied to the residential consumer.</p>
Other Steel and Metal Containers and Packaging	✓	<p>Definition: Includes all other containers that are more than 50% by weight of steel or other metal and that are not included in any of the steel and other metal packaging material sub-categories.</p> <p>Examples: Food cans, soup cans, large juice cans, lids and closures on packaging, wire hangers when provided to the consumer as service packaging with an item of clothing.</p>

Aluminum Packaging

Material List-Subcategory	ON	Definitions, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
Aluminum Food and Beverage Containers	✓	<p>Definition: Includes sealed rigid containers, cans, bottles and lids for food and non-food products and beverages that are at least 95% by weight of aluminum.</p> <p>Examples: Single-serve juice and soft drink cans, pet food cans, food cans, sardine tins, aluminum shoe polish containers and other similar non-food aluminum containers. Please report all aluminum pie plates and aluminum foil under Foil and Other Aluminum Packaging.</p>
Aluminum Aerosol Containers	✓	<p>Definition: Includes aluminum aerosol containers that are at least 95% by weight aluminum.</p> <p>Examples: Air freshener spray cans, hairspray cans, food spray cans, deodorant spray cans, mousse spray cans, food spray cans for cheese or whipped cream.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Steel aerosol containers should be reported under Steel Aerosol Containers</p>
Other Aluminum Packaging	✓	<p>Definition: Includes foil trays, lids, seals and aluminum tubes, caps, screw on lids that are at least 95% by weight aluminum and are not included in any of the other aluminum packaging sub-categories.</p> <p>Examples: Foil wrap, pie plates, yogurt/ sour cream seals, frozen food trays.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Exclude foil wrap, pie plates or other aluminum food trays, purchased as products. Include these items if provided as service packaging, such as a baked pie sold in an aluminum pie plate - the aluminum pie plate should be reported.</p>

Glass Packaging

Material List-Subcategory	ON	Definitions, Examples & Reporting Tips (Examples provided for illustrative purposes only)
Clear Glass		<p>Definition: Includes clear glass container packaging that is 50% or more of glass by weight.</p> <p>Examples: Food containers such as pickle, salsa, pasta sauce jars, juice, soft drink, milk or ice tea bottles, cosmetic containers for creams.</p> <p>Reporting Tips: Do not report borosilicate glass such as Pyrex or Simax. Do not report ceramics or crystal.</p>
Coloured Glass		<p>Definition: Includes coloured (e.g., green, brown, blue etc.) glass container packaging that is 50% or greater of glass by weight.</p> <p>Examples: Olive oil bottles, balsamic vinegar bottles, cosmetic containers for creams.</p>