

# PACKAGED PERISHABLE FOODS (PRODUCE, EGGS & MEAT)

These best practice reporting tips have been developed specifically for businesses that distribute packaged produce to consumers including eggs, fruits, vegetables and meat.

## Intro:

Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance has created best practice reporting tips for specific sectors. These tips are designed to assist you in preparing your steward reports and to help you identify the proper material reporting categories for the common packaging and paper products used by businesses in this sector. These tips are provided for your guidance only. Any questions you may have about these reporting tips or any questions you may have in preparing your report can be directed to [stewards@cssalliance.ca](mailto:stewards@cssalliance.ca).

## General Tips:

- ✓ Please check the resin codes on your plastic packaging as different plastics are reported under different material categories.
- ✓ Stewards may be able to use the Component Threshold Rule for packaging that is made up of two or more different material types when certain components of the package constitute a small proportion of the entire package. Please see Part Two, section 2.1.4 of the Guidebook for more details on how to use the Component Threshold Rule.
- ✓ Please ensure that all HR-related documents and business cards are included in your steward report.

COMMON PRODUCTS	COMPONENTS	TYPICAL WERECYCLE MATERIAL SUBCATEGORIES	REPORTING TIPS
<b>Raw meat packaging</b> Examples include: ground meat, whole chicken, fish, etc.	Tray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded Polystyrene – Food Packaging</li> <li>• Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>• Plastic Laminates- Non-Beverage</li> <li>• Non-Expanded Polystyrene – Other</li> <li>• PET Thermoform Containers &lt;5 Liters – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	

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<b>Raw meat packaging</b> Examples include: ground meat, whole chicken, fish, etc.	Soaker pad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper Laminates</li> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
	Film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>PLA, PHA, PHB – Plastic Film</li> </ul>	
	Sticker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper Laminates</li> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
	Meat tube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Other Steel Containers and Packaging – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Other Aluminum Packaging</li> </ul>	
<b>Cured meat packaging</b> Examples include: pepperoni, prosciutto, salami, etc.	Film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>PLA, PHA, PHB – Plastic Film</li> </ul>	
	Paper board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging</li> <li>Paper Laminates</li> </ul>	
	Meat separator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Paper Laminates</li> </ul>	
	Plastic container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PET Thermoform Containers &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Non-Expanded Polystyrene – Other</li> </ul>	
	Vacuum sealed plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
	Paper wrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper Laminates</li> <li>Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging</li> </ul>	
	Sticker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Paper Laminates</li> </ul>	

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<b>Boxed meat packaging</b> Examples include: bacon, etc.	Protective film	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>LDPE/HDPE Film</li> <li>PLA, PHA, PHB – Plastic Film</li> </ul>	
	Outer box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging</li> <li>Corrugated Cardboard</li> </ul>	
<b>Eggs</b> Examples include: egg cartons, egg products, etc.	Egg carton (whole eggs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging</li> <li>PLA, PHA, PHB – Non-Beverage</li> <li>PET Thermoform Containers &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Non-Expanded Polystyrene- Other</li> <li>Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
	Carton (liquid eggs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gable Top Containers – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
	Lid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
<b>Fruit / vegetable clamshells</b> Examples include: cherry tomatoes, berries, etc.	Clamshell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PET Thermoform Containers &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Non-Expanded Polystyrene – Other</li> <li>Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
	Sticker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Paper Laminates</li> </ul>	
<b>Film around fruit / vegetables</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>LDPE/HDPE Film</li> <li>PLA, PHA, PHB – Plastic Film</li> </ul>	

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<b>Netting around fruit</b> Examples include: oranges, onions, lemons, etc.	Netting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural and Synthetic Textiles</li> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	Report Natural and Synthetic Textiles in Ontario Only.
	Plastic handle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
<b>Sticker on fruit</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper Laminates</li> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	
<b>Vegetable / fruit platter</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PET Thermoform Containers &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Non-Expanded Polystyrene – Other</li> <li>Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	A vegetable or fruit platter may come with another brand owner's dip. If the brand owner has residency in that province or is a voluntary steward do not report the dip.
<b>Pre-packaged salad mix</b>	(Please include the packaging for all individually wrapped ingredients of the salad)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>LDPE/ HDPE Film</li> <li>PLA, PHA, PHB – Plastic Film</li> <li>Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>PET Thermoform Containers &lt;5L – Non-Beverage</li> <li>Non-Expanded Polystyrene - Other</li> </ul>	A bagged salad may come with another brand owner's dressing. If the brand owner has residency in that province or is a voluntary steward do not report the packaging for the salad dressing.

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Herb packaging	Vacuum sealed package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Plastic Packaging &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>• PET Thermoform Containers &lt;5 Litres – Non-Beverage</li> <li>• Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>• Non-Expanded Polystyrene – Other</li> </ul>	
	Label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>• Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging</li> <li>• Paper Laminates</li> </ul>	

If you are a retailer, please include any of the following materials that are provided to consumers as service packaging:

COMMON PRODUCTS	COMPONENTS	TYPICAL WERECYCLE MATERIAL SUBCATEGORIES	REPORTING TIPS
Carry-out bags	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLA, PHA, PHB – Carry-Out Bags</li> <li>• Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> <li>• Boxboard and Other Paper Packaging</li> <li>• Kraft Paper Bags – Point of Sale</li> <li>• Natural and Synthetic Textiles</li> <li>• LDPE/HDPE Film – Carry-Out Bags</li> <li>• Paper laminates</li> </ul>	<p>Report Natural and Synthetic Textiles in Ontario only.</p> <p>If reporting in Manitoba, report both number of units of bags supplied as well as KG of bags supplied.</p> <p>Report laminated Kraft bags as Paper Laminates</p>
Receipts	Retail receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Printed Materials</li> </ul>	
	Credit / debit receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Printed Materials</li> </ul>	

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Price sticker	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper Laminates</li> <li>• Plastic Laminates – Non-Beverage</li> </ul>	

## FAQ:

### **I ship to a distribution centre and I don't know the final destination of my product. What do I do?**

If you ship products to a third party's distribution centre and are uncertain of the final destination of your products, the best approach to work with your customers to secure data about the 'sold to' parties. If however this information is not available, you may estimate the quantities of PPP supplied to each province (and sold to consumers) by referencing [Statistics Canada Population Percentage](#) data as provided in Part Two of the Guidebook.

### **I manufacture private label products for another company. Do I report this product or does my customer?**

The obligated steward for private label brands is the brand owner and not the manufacturer.

### **How do I use the Component Threshold Rule?**

If you supply packaging that consists of multiple material categories (e.g. a bottle made of one type of plastic, with a lid made of a second type of plastic) you may be able to simplify your reporting by using the Component Threshold Rule. If the packaging component or ancillary packaging makes up a small percentage (less than 5%) of the total packaging weight, you can report that component under the material category that represents the majority of the package's weight. For practical examples and more information on the Component Threshold Rule, please refer to section 2.4.1 of the Guidebook.

### **I purchase non-branded packaging from a wholesaler for my bakery business. I am not putting my brand name on it. The packaging manufacturer's name is on the bottom of the bag. Who is obligated to report this?**

You would be the obligated steward to report this material. Even though you are purchasing packaging as a product from a manufacturer whose brand is on the packaging, you are then distributing this material to consumers as "service packaging" containing your product. This makes you the obligated steward for this material.

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**I am a retailer registered in all 4 programs and we offer a return-to-retail program for my plastic carry-out bags. Sometimes other retailers carry out bags are returned to us. A private contractor manages the end of life of these bags. Am I able to exclude this tonnage from my report as it will not end up in the residential waste stream?**

*MMSM and Stewardship Ontario are the only programs in which stewards may claim a deduction for plastic bags which are returned to retail as part of a return to retail program for plastic bags.*

*A Deduction Declaration Form must be completed and submitted on the WeRecycle Portal by all stewards in Manitoba and Ontario that report a reduced quantity of their total plastic bags supplied due to their return to retail program.*

*Stewards may claim a deduction for all plastics bags returned to retail, regardless of whether those returns include other retailers' bags, with appropriate substantiation on the total quantity of bags returned to retail.*

**Why are stewards required to update the Methodology section on an annual basis?**

*It is recommended that stewards review and update their methodologies on an annual basis in order to validate their approach to reporting each year and to ensure their data collection processes remain current for their organization. Stewards are also required to update the brands/affiliates section of their reports each year with the most accurate information, which includes brands for which they are the brand owner or the obligated first importer. Changes in either of these areas will affect quantities reported year over year. During the report validation process, variances may be identified in one or more material category. If the methodology section clarifies the reason for those variances, it makes the report validation process more efficient for staff and stewards.*

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## More Info:

You may supply other products that are not included in this sector tip sheet. Please refer to the Sector Tip Sheets listed below if you supply any of these additional products and require assistance in identifying the material category for reporting the packaging or paper products associated with these products.

COMMON PRODUCTS	SECTOR TIP SHEET
Milk, yoghurt, cheese	Dairy, Milk and Milk Substitute Beverages
Pasta, cereal, tuna, chips	Packaged Foods
Water, juice, pop	Non-Dairy Beverages
Candy or chocolate	Confectionery
Toothpaste, shampoo	Personal Care & Household Products