



- Contribution diversification for plastic packaging -

EXPERIMENTAL SORTING/RECYCLING ACTIVITIES

FOREWORD

Following the requests received by PTAC regarding the possibility of carrying out in-depth studies on the sortability and recyclability of specific types of packaging in Level C, a “*Protocol for COREPLA trials in the CONAI PTAC area*” outlining the general criteria for conducting the trials has been prepared.

This protocol applies to requests for sampling of packaging waste for the performance of trials on the sorting, recycling and use of recycled material, received by PTAC, within which COREPLA plays the role of technical advisor.

The trials are aimed at verifying the existence of the conditions for the development of industrial supply chains for the sorting of packaging from separate household collection, its recycling and use of the recycled material in commercial applications and at their promotion.

Among other things, it is envisaged that COREPLA provides proposing parties with the quantities of sorted waste on an experimental basis at their sorting centres (SC) necessary for carrying out the trials. This availability is subject to verification of the following conditions:

- representativeness of the proposing parties in relation to the entire packaging supply chain covered by the trial;
- submission of a sufficiently detailed plan of the trials that the proposing parties intend to carry out, including applications for the recycled material obtained from the trials;
- evaluation of the plan by PTAC and approval by COREPLA;
- presence of significant sortable quantities of the packaging covered by the trial in the separate collection managed by COREPLA;
- compatibility with the industrial sorting technologies currently available at the SCs and with the workload and availability of personnel and equipment of the SCs that COREPLA decides to involve in the trial;
- compliance with waste management legislation;
- commitment of stakeholders to ensure that COREPLA and CONAI have the opportunity to attend execution of the trials and to share the results of the trial with COREPLA.

If, as a result of the positive outcome of the trials, a veritable industrial sorting and recycling supply chain is created, PTAC will then submit any reallocation in a more facilitated level to the competent consortium bodies, giving adequate information to the companies concerned.



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TRIALS IN PROGRESS AS AT 26.11.2019

PET trays

In the list as at 1.1.2020, rigid PET packaging other than bottles, jars and detergent bottles and the like is confirmed in level C.

In fact, when recognised as PET packaging by optical readers and sorted together with bottles, jars and detergent bottles and the like, they must then be removed from the sorted stream sent for recycling, since they have different structural characteristics that negatively affect the yield of the recycling process and the quality of the recycled PET, obtainable from bottles, jars and detergent bottles and the like. For this reason, COREPLA's sorting specifications for transparent, blue and coloured PET container flows envisage a ceiling on the presence of PET trays. The sorting centres manually remove the trays from the flows sorted using optical readers, so as to ensure compliance with the sorting specifications.

Following the requests received from the main producers of trays (mainly made of rPET), PTAC started a trial, in line with that established in the Protocol and with the involvement of all stakeholders.

The trial envisages the following activities:

- provision by COREPLA of trial quantities of PET trays, sorted at a number of sorting centres, identified by COREPLA as plants in which the sorting of PET trays could be started continuously in the future;
- conversion of the trays into secondary raw material (rPET flakes) at industrial recycling plants, with the aim of optimising the process and recycled material quality and yield, intervening in the process where the characteristics of the plant allow so;
- trials for conversion of the rPET flakes for the production of PET thermoformed products, with evaluation of the quality and processability of the material and of the product characteristics.

The trials are currently in progress.

This document is the English translation of a Conai document. In cases of disputes, the original Italian text shall prevail.