Crosscutting Packaging Working Group

Mandate

The goal of the Crosscutting Packaging Working Group (PWG) is to provide guidance on packaging related modelling and data issues in the running Environmental Footprint pilot phase. In particular, the WG will propose requirements to be implemented in the final PEFCRs/OEFSRs and, to the extent possible, to be tested by the pilots in the supporting studies. It will ensure material neutrality[1] in all activities of PWG and avoid discrimination of packaging materials or systems.

The following tasks are foreseen:

   a) To identify a number of 'default' secondary datasets for packaging systems[2] (cradle to gate) and packaging related activities, available in public/commercial databases, or newly created;
   b) To provide further guidance on reuse rates[3] for the relevant packaging system, where reuse is an option;
   c) To provide further guidance on packaging specific transportation aspects (e.g. connected to re-use systems or cube utilization);
   d) To provide further guidance on the application and definition of recycled content;
   e) To identify a number of 'default' secondary End of Life datasets, available in public/commercial databases, or newly created.

The Global Protocol on Packaging Sustainability[4] and the CEN/ISO standards already cover definitions and principles to address packaging in life cycle approaches. These documents will be used as a baseline to address the packaging related issues defined in this mandate.

Milestones: A list of default secondary datasets - Point a) of the mandate

   a1) Define a representative list of packaging constituents, components and systems (cradle to gate) used in the current PEFCRs/OEFSRs and for which default secondary datasets are required;

   a2) For each packaging constituent, component and systems, determine the datasets available, or identify potential data sources and data needs in case no datasets are directly available;

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[1] Material neutrality abbreviates "packaging system neutrality" and is in view of LCA rather a quality criterion for the assessment than a pre-determination of the results. If the assessment covers the entire packaging system (primary, secondary, tertiary as defined in ISO-18602:2013), accounts for the key functionalities (e.g. protecting products & preventing waste and losses etc. outlined in detail on p10 of the GPP Final report) and provides a clear understanding of the relevance and sensitivity of material and system related modelling choices (e.g. allocation) the result is unbiased and can be considered "neutral".

[2] "System" should be understood as the material composition together with the packaging format.

[3] Also defined as reuse time.

[4] GPPS v2.0, 2011. The consumer goods forum.

a3) Deliver a list of 'default' secondary datasets for each packaging constituent, component and system, available in public/commercial databases, or newly created. With datasets it is meant (i) the selection of a source where the appropriate life cycle inventory can be found, or (ii) in case no source is found, the identification of data needs and potential entities capable of generating such data;

a4) If possible, calculate the DQRs for each suitable dataset, based on the current situation and under the assumption that the dataset will be made available as EF-compliant.

Milestones: Packaging reuse rates - Point b) of the mandate

b1) Define guidance and rules to model reuse rates for a specific product. (e.g., products packed in returnable glass bottles or plastic crates, and products shipped on pallets);

b2) If possible, determine default reuse rates for relevant packaging systems.

Milestones: Packaging transport - Point c) of the mandate

c1) Determine transportation aspects which are specific to packaging;

c2) Where relevant, define guidance to specify activity data like cube utilization, mode of transport, actual payload and empty return rates.

Milestones: Recycled content - Point d) of the mandate

d1) Guidance on the definition, applicability and modeling of processes that use recycled material to produce packaging systems by further clarifying the GPPS and ISO/CEN standards in the context of PEF/OEF.

Milestones: End of Life dataset - Point e) of the mandate

e1) Identify a representative set of technology levels for each end of life treatment, and for which life cycle inventory datasets are required;

e2) For each technology level identified, deliver a default secondary EOL dataset available in public/commercial databases, or newly created. With dataset it is meant (i) the selection of a source where the appropriate life cycle inventory can be found, or (ii) in case no source is found, the identification of data needs and potential entities capable of generating such data;

e3) Furthermore, explore the possibility to define end of life pathway ratios (such as recovery rates and incineration rates, to be used in the EOL PEF formula), in function of the packaging system and where the packaging becomes available for collection. If possible, this will feed into default secondary EoL datasets.

e4) Guidance for cases where parameters or processes according to e1) do not exist or cannot be provided in the scope of the PEF/OEF.

Governance

The Packaging Working Group (PWG) is a temporary working group to which the following members are kindly invited:

- ACE – Alliance for beverage cartons and the environment
- APEAL - Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging
- CEPI – Confederation of European Paper Industries
- EAA – European Aluminum Association
- Environmental Footprint pilots
- EC - European Commission
- EUPC – European Plastic Converters
- EUROPEN – European organisation for packaging and the environment
- FEFCO – European corrugated packaging association
- FEVE - European Federation of glass packaging and glass tableware makers
- Food Round Table
- FPE – Flexible Packaging Europe
- MPE – Metal Packaging Europe
- PlasticsEurope
- EXPRA – Extended producer responsibility alliance
- European Bioplastics
- PETCore Europe
- EAFA - European Aluminium Foil Association

The European Commission will convene the meetings, chair, and facilitate them. The minutes of the meetings will be taken by each member in turns. A specific Wiki page for this working group will be created and maintained by the EC. The draft minutes of each meeting will be uploaded in the restricted section of the working group wiki page. Once the minutes are uploaded the members will have two weeks to react, otherwise they are considered to have given their tacit approval. Should the draft minutes meet with considerable problems, they should be put on the agenda of the subsequent meeting. Once approved the minutes of each meeting will be made available to the public section of the working group wiki page.

Any decision in the PWG should be taken as much as possible by consensus. In case a vote is deemed necessary, the PWG can vote on the initiative of the Chair. The voting procedure will be discussed and agreed during the first meeting of the PWG.

PWG meetings will take place in Brussels, starting with one meeting day a month. The participation to this working group is *pro-bono*.

The mandate of the PWG is valid till 30 April 2016 (to allow at least 6 to 8 months of work time). The mandate can be renewed maximum one time for 6 months more.