# Decision tree reusable packaging

**01** **When does a packaging qualify as a reusable packaging?**

By following this guideline correctly, you will be able to determine whether a specific packaging should be reported as a reusable packaging.

Only those packaging that meet the criteria of the decision tree, may be listed in the declaration under the heading "reusable packaging".

To know if you should answer the questions with "yes" or "no", a short explanaition is given for each question.

This guideline also describes how to set up a compliance dossier(see below), to illustrate and justify your conclusion to a "reusable packaging".

**02** **Conditions**

The following conditions must be met cumulatively before a packaging can be considered reusable:
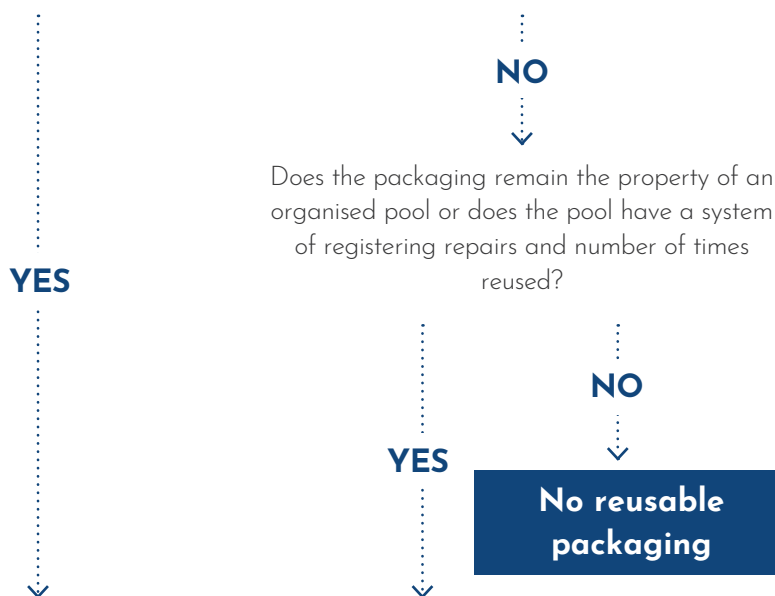
1. The company and its customers must be willing to use these reusable packaging.

2. The packaging must meet certain requirements in terms of quality/protection, etc.

3. A system must be available to encourage and ensure reuse of the packaging.

**03**  **Minimum content of the supporting file:**

• Technical specifications of the packaging (as provided for under question 2).
• Description of the system of reuse (as provided for under question 3).

**04**  **Decision tree:**

**1. Does the party responsible for packaging want to reuse this packaging for the same purpose?**

**NO**

Does the packaging remain the property of an organised pool or does the pool have a system of registering repairs and number of times reused?

**YES**

**YES**

**NO**

**No reusable packaging**

**2.  Does the packaging meet all technical requirements to be reusable for the same purpose a minimum number of times? (quality, protection, …)**

**YES**

**NO**

**No reusable packaging**

**3. Is there a system to reuse the used packaging at least 2 times for the same purpose?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Reusable packaging**

**No reusable packaging**

# *Explanatory note to the decision tree*

## QUESTION 1

### A/ ARE YOU THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR PACKAGING FOR THIS PACKAGING?

For example: You are merely a distributor of a product that you purchase packaged in Belgium from a Belgian manufacturer and resell in the same packaging. In this case, you are not the party responsible for the packaging.

### B/ IF SO, HAVE YOU EXPRESSED A FIRM INTENTION TO REUSE THAT PACKAGING FOR THE SAME PURPOSE?

- **Firm intention expressed:** how is this firm intention proven? Minutes of a meeting, decision report, the fact that you have fixed a deposit, …

- **For the same purpose:** a second use for another purpose excludes the packaging from being a "reusable packaging" within the meaning of the Cooperation Agreement.

  *Example:*

  - A glass of mustard used as a drinking glass after emptying it: there is no use for the same purpose (moreover, it is used by another person than the party responsible for packaging). This packaging can not be considered to be reusable.
  - Reloading a pallet previously used to deliver dairy products, with bricks: the pallet is used for the same purpose and is therefore considered to be reusable.

- **Reuse by yourself as the party responsible for packaging or by your agent:**

  *Example:*

  - After rinsing, bottles are refilled in your company or by a company with which you made an agreement to fill the product you put on the market.
  - Reuse does not occur when your customer decides to have the buckets, in which you packaged liquid soap, used by his cleaning team (there is no question of use for the same purpose).

## C/ «DOES THE PACKAGING REMAIN PROPERTY OF …»

*Even if the packaging doesn't remain property of the party responsible for packaging, it still doesn't mean that it can not be a reusable packaging.*

Especially for commercial and industrial packaging, several "reuse pool systems" exist. However, in these cases the decision to reuse (for example a pallet) is not yours but that of the pool operator.

If following pool systems are used, you may assume that the packaging belonging to that pool are "reusable packaging":

### Open Loop Pallets:

| | |
|---|---|
| **CP/PRS** | Wood & Plastic |
| **EURO** | Wood & Plastic |
| **CHEP** | Wood & Plastic |
| **LPR «LA PALETTE ROUGE»** | Wood |

### Other:

| | |
|---|---|
| **COLLAR FOR CHEP-PALLETS** | Wood |
| **PALLETBOX CHEP** | Metal |
| **EUROBOX CHEP** | Metal |

Please contact Valipac if you think that you are using reusable commercial and industrial packaging that belong to another pool system than these mentioned above.

## QUESTION 2

If you decide to reuse a specific packaging, it will have to meet all technical and quality requirements in order to complete a **minimum number of consecutive rotations.**

If you do not longer have this specification, please ask for it again from your supplier, or prove by any other means that this packaging has all the technical characteristics which make it suitable for reuse or refilling.

*Example:*

- For wine bottles designed to be used a minimum number of times (e.g. 7 times), you may answer question 2 with YES.
- For common cardboard boxes designed to be used only once, you can not answer YES to question 2, **even if these cardboard boxes are occasionally used twice or three times.**

## QUESTION 3

*This question is not relevant for the party responsible for packaging when the packaging concerned belongs to a pool system, as explained under question 1, c). If the packaging is part of such a pool system, the answer to question 3 is automatically YES.*

If you want to reuse the packaging, you will have to set up a system to ensure that the packaging is returned to the place where it will be refilled.

"System" refers to those organisational, technical, logistical and/or financial measures (e.g. deposits) which ensure that the packaging is indeed reused for the same purpose.

Include a brief description of your "reuse system" in your **compliance dossier.**

Since the packaging in the system has to be **reused** at least twice, i.e. has to be **used** 3 times, you will have to pay attention to this when describing your system in your compliance dossier.

*One such element may be:* you sell a volume X (number of packcaging units) of products annually and use only Y packaging to distribute them (Y being smaller than X, because you use reusable packaging).

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

**The number of times a packaging is reused (see question 3) is not the same as the technical qualification that determines how many times a packaging can be used from a technical point of view (see question 2).**

**The number of times a packaging can theoretically be reused (question 2) is always higher than twice (question 3).**