



Pallet wrapping and straps exempt from 100% reuse requirement under Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

The exclusion marks the first application of a Delegated Act under the law.

NEWS ARTICLE

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The European Commission adopted a [Delegated Act](#) today (25 Feb) exempting wrapping and straps used to secure goods on pallets during transport from the EU's new 100% reuse requirement.

The [Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation](#) (PPWR) had previously set a 100% reuse target for the two items when used within companies and between companies in the same Member State, but both items will now be exempt from this rule.

In response to stakeholder feedback, the Commission carried out a [study to assess the feasibility of an exemption](#). It concluded that the exclusive use of reusable pallet wrappings and straps for transport operations when used within the same company or among linked or partner companies, or for deliveries within the same Member State, could lead to disproportionate adaptation costs.

The PPWR stipulates that, from 1 January 2030, economic operators in the EU must ensure that at least 40% of transport and sales packaging is reusable. This requirement applies to formats such as pallets, foldable-plastic boxes, boxes, trays, plastic crates, intermediate bulk containers, pails, drums, and canisters, including pallet wrapping and straps.

The exemption ensures operators can meet the overall 40% reusability target without facing undue burdens associated with specific packaging components, aligning sustainability goals with current technological and financial realities.

This balanced approach reinforces the EU's commitment to advancing a circular economy while acknowledging operational feasibility.

Background

The [Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation](#) entered into force on 11 February 2025. It aims to address the pressing environmental challenges caused by excessive packaging and to create opportunities for businesses involved in recycling and sustainable packaging solutions.

The Regulation introduces measures such as mandatory recyclability by 2030, minimum recycled content in plastic packaging, and reuse targets. These measures will significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions, water use and environmental costs in the packaging sector.

Harmonised European packaging rules will also benefit businesses, as they create a level playing field for industry. Companies will need to comply with a single set of rules, rather than navigating the current patchwork of national rules. This will reduce complexity and compliance costs.

The Delegated Act on the exemption of pallet wrapping and straps from the 100% reuse target was open for [public feedback](#) between 10 December 2025 and 9 January 2026, in line with the EU's decision-making rules.

More information

[Commission Delegated Decision exempting certain economic operators that use pallet wrappings and straps from the 100% reuse requirements of these packaging formats | European Commission](#)

[Packaging waste | European Commission](#)

Details

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