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OPERATIONAL PLASTIC PACKAGING GUIDELINES

GROCERY/FRESH

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INTRODUCTION TO OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

How to use these guidelines

The Operational Guidelines are meant as an operational elaboration of the Plastic Packaging Principles, and are designed to share with suppliers. They have been developed in close collaboration with internal Salling Group category sales teams and have been evaluated and proof-read by packaging manufacturers, re-processors, designers, and the WWF.

That being said, they are reflecting the moment in time where they have been developed and they are to be applied in a field where technology, legislation and materials are changing from one day to the next. Therefore, the guidelines will be continuously updated.

If you have questions or encounter a supplier or packaging producer with knowledge that supplements the content of these guidelines, please do share this with Salling Group Public Affairs & CSR, mail: csr@sallinggroup.com

The following sections are elaborating on some of the core decisions and reflections behind the guidelines.

1. PET, PP and PE for food – but only PP and PE for all other packaging

PET plastic is intrinsically graded for food, and the rPET that is on the marked comes from closed loop collection of plastic food packaging e.g. the Danish deposit system. To keep as much PET in the food stream, we recommend to operate with PET/rPET primarily in the food packaging along with the use of PP/rPP and PE/rPE.

For all other categories than food we want to avoid the use of PET/rPET but instead prioritise the use of PP/rPP and PE/ rPE. Using PET for products like detergents or cleaning products will potentially contaminate the PET stream. Therefore, it is important that we keep as much PET in the food stream as possible and not use it for other packaging. PET is to be used in food packaging and only in Nearfood packaging when it is relevant.

We clearly recommend that this is considered when working with the design manual for each private label on Nearfood (Blot, Budget, Vores, Lovena, Tibelly, Shine, Levevis etc.) so that semi-transparent packaging or coloured packaging that can be made in PP or PE is prioritised.

2. The use of recycled material

We have an ambitious goal to use 30% recycled material in our packaging by 2023. Due to recycling technology, this will not be possible to implement in all packaging today. Where rPET, rPP and rPE is becoming more and more developed for hard plastic packaging, it is still not feasible to produce flexible plastic foil of good enough quality in recycled material.

Therefore, we want to aim for a higher percentage for our hard packaging to compensate for the foil and thereby being able to achieve the final goal of a 30% total use of recycled material.

3. How to navigate in the listed priorities

We are aiming for the most optimised solution on all our plastic packaging which is why there should be strong arguments to choose lower priorities than Priority 1. These arguments should be procured in close corporation with the supplier and should be approved internally.

4. Recycling and reduction

We aim to ensure a fully recyclable private label packaging which will be achieved by following the principles and guidelines. However, reduction of plastic packaging is crucial as well and we encourage to work with this alongside the process to convert our private label packaging into recyclable packaging. The guidelines will offer ideas for reduction but suppliers and packaging manufacturers will have qualified input on this as well, so make sure you ask them and share their input as valuable inspiration across categories.

Considering to replace plastic packaging?

There are no current validated Life Cycle Analysis that juxtaposes different materials like paper, plastic, glass etc. against each other, which is why it is complex and difficult to conclusively recommend one material over another. Therefore, an individual evaluation of the specific packaging options is required.

If you are considering replacing plastic packaging with packaging of another material, please contact: Salling Group Public Affairs & CSR, csr@sallinggroup.com

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PACKAGING EXAMPLES



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BAGS - GROCERY / FRESH

Packaging examples:



Plastic bag with welding



with zipper



Plastic bag with metal clip, plastic clip, tape or welding



Plastic mesh



Plastic or paper bag with aluminium inner coating

Potential challenges

- · Multi material packaging consisting of different base materials or incompatible polymer structures glued together are impossible to disassemble and cannot be reprocessed
- The zipper is a convenience standard but excessive material
- Fruit meshes can be made from nylon or poor grade plastic that cannot be reprocessed
- · Meshes and labels are often not properly disassembled and there is a risk that the label will 'disturb' the reading of the plastic type in the sorting process
- · Labels with glue that cannot be dissolved will deteriorate the reprocessing

MAIN COMPONENT (BAG)

- · Priority 1: Use single layer mono material PP or PE
- · Priority 2: Use multi-layer compatible polymers like PP/PP, PE/PE or PP/PE
- · Use clear PP or as light colour PE as possible

LABEL

Do's

- If non-transparent foil has been used to create a barrier against light, then print directly on the bag
- If transparent bag, then use label in the same material as the component it is attached to
- If mesh, then use label in the same material as the mesh

Dont's

- No use of EVOH
- · No use of metal clip

How to reduce, replace and remove to further improve the packaging?

- · Reduce thickness of material
- · Reduce the packaging so that it fits content
- · Reduce number of layers in the foil if possible
- · Remove the aluminium foil and replace it with e.g. Alox with resembling qualities if possible
- Remove valve if possible •
- · Remove zipper or other excess material

If any of the above is possible then execute!

BOXES - GROCERY / FRESH

Packaging examples:





Non-plastic box with plastic bag inside

Non-plastic box with multi material bag inside and plastic tap



Non-plastic box with plastic coated window

Potential challenges

- Multi material bag for wine contains aluminium which is a costly material that cannot be separated and recycled in this format
- Multi material packaging with layers of aluminium and plastic glued together and with a plastic cap integrated is impossible to disassemble and thereby reprocessed
- Bag-in-box wine have a certain level of convenience that is difficult to unite with a disassembly friendly packaging
- Plastic coated windows in non-plastic boxes are not likely to be disassembled by the consumer and will deteriorate the reprocessing

SECONDARY COMPONENT (BAG)

• Use mono material PP or PE - Use clear PP or as light colour PE as possible

SECONDARY COMPONENT (CAP, INNER COATING)

- If mono material for the main component is possible, then use a cap in the same plastic type
- Design non-plastic box so that it is possible to quit inner plastic coating and plastic bag

Dont's

No use of integrated
 plastic in window

How to reduce, replace and remove to further improve the packaging?

Do's

- Reduce the packaging so that it fits content
- · Reduce thickness or number of layers in the foil if possible
- Remove the aluminium foil and replace it with e.g. Alox with resembling qualities if possible
- Remove inner plastic coating

BOTTLES - GROCERY / FRESH

Packaging examples:



Plastic bottle with plastic cap and inside or outside plastic top-seal



Plastic bottle with plastic cap



Glass bottle with plastic or metal cap and inside or outside plastic top-seal

Potential challenges

- Components in different types of plastic that are
 impossible to disassemble properly by the consumer
- Labels with glue that cannot be dissolved will deteriorate the reprocessing

MAIN COMPONENT (BOTTLE)

- Use mono material PET
 - Priority 1: Use clear PET
 Priority 2: Use coloured PET only if light barriers requires so
 - Use as much rPET as possible, preferably 30% or more

Do's

- SECONDARY COMPONENT (CAP)
- Use mono material PP or PE
- Choose a cap design that is easy to disassemble for the consumer

SEALING (INSIDE TOP SEAL)

Use mono material PP or PE

LABEL

- Use PET or PE label
 Attach band label with a single line of glue to ease postconsumption separation
 - If Shrink Wrap label is used, then integrate 'zipper' to ease post-consumption separation
- Use soluble glue

Dont's

• Use a cap design that leaves a PE ring on the PET bottle

How to reduce, replace and remove to further improve the packaging?

- Reduce the thickness of main component if possible
- Replace lid with foil

If any of the above is possible then execute!

SHRINK-WRAP - GROCERY / FRESH

Packaging examples:



Shrink wrap

Potential challenges

• Some shrink wrap from e.g. the States and China are still based on a PVC plastic type



How to reduce, replace and remove to further improve the packaging?

• Replace shrink wrap with foil bag





TRAYS - GROCERY / FRESH

Packaging examples:





Non-plastic tray with shrink wrap



Plastic tray with plastic top foil



Plastic tray with plastic lid



Plastic tray with plastic bag

Potential challenges

- Glue residues from top foil can deteriorate the reprocessing
- Plastic tray and plastic top foil is often different types of plastic that can be difficult to separate properly. If this is not the case, the mix of plastic will deteriorate the reprocessing.

MAIN COMPONENT (TRAY)

- · Priority 1: Use mono material PET
 - Priority 1: Use clear PET
 - Priority 2: Use coloured PET
 - Use as much rPET as possible, preferably 30% or more
- Priority 2: Use mono material PP or PE
 Use clear PP or as light colour PE as possible

Do's

SEALING (TOP FOIL, LID, BAG)

- Priority 1: Use mono material PET foil
- Priority 2: Use mono material PP or PE foil
 If PP or PE foil, use glue that will easily separate from tray

LABEL

- Use PP or PE label
- Use soluble glue

Dont's

 No use of carbon black for dark colouring

How to reduce, replace and remove to further improve the packaging?

- Reduce the packaging so that it fits content
- Reduce the thickness of main component if possible
- Replace lid with foil

If any of the above is possible then execute!

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TUBS - GROCERY / FRESH

Packaging examples:



Plastic tub with plastic lid

Plastic tub with plastic lid and plastic top-seal inside

Potential challenges

· Components in potentially different types of plastic or materials that require total disassembly by the consumer to be reprocessed



- Use clear PP or as light colour PE as possible

SECONDARY COMPONENT (LID)

clear PET

Do's

- Use as much rPET as possible, preferably 30% or more

SEALING (TOP SEAL)

- Priority 1: Use mono material PET foil
- Priority 2: Use mono material PP or PE foil

- LABEL
- · Priority 1: Print on Top Seal to avoid separate label on main component
- Priority 2: Use PP or PE label - Use soluble glue

Dont's

- · No dark colouring of Tub or Lid
- No use of metal top-seal

How to reduce, replace and remove to further improve the packaging?

- · Reduce the packaging so that it fits content
- · Reduce the thickness of main component if possible
- · Replace lid with foil

POUCHES - GROCERY / FRESH

Packaging examples:



Stand pouch with plastic cap

Potential challenges

- Contains aluminium which is a costly material that in this format cannot be separated and recycled
- Multi material packaging with layers of aluminium and plastic glued together and with a plastic cap integrated is impossible to disassemble and reprocess
- High level of convenience on especially baby food makes it difficult to replace the packaging

Do's

MAIN COMPONENT (BAG)

- Priority 1: Use single layer mono material PP or PE
- Priority 2: Use multilayer mono material PP/PP or PE/PE
- Priority 3: Use multilayer composites PP/PE

SECONDARY COMPONENT (CAP)

• If mono material for the main component is possible, then use a cap in the same plastic type

Dont's

 No use of EVOH if the stand pouch and cap is in same mono material

How to reduce, replace and remove to further improve the packaging?

- Reduce thickness or number of layers in the foil if possible
- Remove the aluminium foil and replace it with e.g. Alox with resembling qualities if possible

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