

UK Recycling Compliance

Ovenable Board Trays (PET lined SBS)

Pack Construction:

We confirm that all Ovenable Board Trays produced by Rapid Action Packaging Ltd are produced from Ovenable Cartonboard (Solid Bleached Sulphate - SBS) laminated with a high temperature resistant film (Poly- EthyleneTerephthalate - PET) to provide moisture barrier properties for protection of the food product and, in the case of long life packaging, heat seal properties to enable closure of the pack after filling.

- The Cartonboard is virgin SBS produced from wood and pulp from Managed Forests and can be FSC or PEFC certified by agreement.
- The PET Film is produced in compliance with UK, European and FDA regulations for food contact plastics and contains no toxic materials, PVC or PVdC derivatives.
- Inks, varnishes and adhesives used are a small proportion of the pack weight and do not interfere with the recycling of Cartonboard.

Testing:

In order for laminated Cartonboard packaging to be recycled it needs to have a sufficiently high ratio of board to film to make it worth recycling and the film board must be readily separable from the board under recycling conditions to generate board pulp that can be used in further manufacturing of recycled board.

Samples of commercial Freshpack sandwich packs and trays have been supplied by Rapid Action Packaging Ltd to WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) for assessment. Their conclusion from tests on the packaging was that the sandwich packs could be labeled as 'widely recycled' by any Brands and Retailers signed up to the OPRL (On Pack Recycle Logo) scheme (www.oprl.org.uk/members).

Recycle Labeling under the OPRL scheme in the UK:

Members of the OPRL logo scheme in the UK may label their products with the OPRL green square and recycle arrow and the statement:

- **Cartonboard – widely recycled**

Food contamination of used packaging:

The above applies where the packaging can be considered to be reasonably free of food contamination. As such it is suitable for sandwiches, salads, or similar products that are easily removed from the pack to leave little food residue behind.

If the pack is used for a product which leaves heavy food contamination, it should first be cleaned or should not be recycled as food waste should not be put into the recycling chain except at trace levels.

It is the responsibility of the brand owner to make reasonable assessment of the practicality of ensuring the pack can be free of heavy food contamination after normal use when determining whether the pack should be labeled as recyclable or not.

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Recycling outside the OPRL scheme or the UK:

Although RAP Ovenable Cartonboard packaging is capable of being recycled in the majority of modern Cartonboard recycling plants, only members of the OPRL scheme in the UK are entitled to use the OPRL logo.

Non OPRL members or users of the packaging outside the UK should be able to use the public domain mobius loop recycle logo with a statement indicating that the pack may be recycled as Cartonboard, subject to any specific local rules or regulations.

Recycling options in a specific area will depend on collection points and recyclability. The availability of collection points for polymer lined board vary from area to area but recyclability under most schemes is based on the ratio of plastic to board in the product.

RAP Ovenable Cartonboard products are made using between 5% and 12% PET lining by weight, with the remaining product being SBS Cartonboard. The PET lining is readily removed in standard cartonboard recycling plants.

It is believed that this should allow our Ovenable Cartonboard products to be recycled in most regions based on the above percentages but Rapid Action Packaging Ltd can only advise specifically on recycle labeling in the UK and ROI and it is the responsibility of the brand owner to ensure compliance in their own retail region.

Changes to recycling rules:

There is an increasing drive to provide facilities for recycling more materials as part of most countries National and Local environmental policies. Conversely, if it is found that a particular type of packaging is interfering with the ability of other products to be effectively recycled it is possible that the facilities for those particular items could be withdrawn.

RAP endeavors to keep abreast of current trends and recommendations in recycling requirements and guidelines but it is important for brand owners to keep up to date with the latest recommendations and guidelines on recycling in the area where their product is to be marketed in order to enable the most suitable recycling recommendations to be given for a specific pack type.