



Customer information on the ban on secondary packaging made of plastic for bundling goods at the point of sale

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The EU Regulation 2025/40 on packaging and packaging waste (PPWR) provides for bans on certain single-use plastic packaging from 1 January 2030, including grouped packaging for bundling goods, e.g. bottles or cans, at the point of sale. Reports are currently circulating on the market that suggest a complete ban on all plastic grouped packaging films for the listed goods. These reports are false because the ban only applies to a very limited range of packaging.

Specifically, the ban in Article 25 in conjunction with Annex V No. 1 PPWR concerns "*single-use plastic [grouped] packaging used at the point of sale to group goods sold in bottles, cans, tins, pots, jars, tubs and packets designed as convenience packaging to enable or encourage consumers to purchase more than one product. **This excludes grouped packaging necessary to facilitate handling.***"

The exception is a necessary limitation of the ban because plastic grouped packaging is generally not designed to "encourage" consumers to buy more than one product, but is necessary for handling in the supply chain. Therefore, if the plastic grouped packaging is necessary for handling in the supply chain, the ban does not apply without the need for further measures. The Commission will clarify this in the guidelines planned for early 2027.

In the supply chain from the bottler to the point of sale, beverage bottles, for example, are usually bundled in groups of six bottles with plastic shrink wrap and stacked in several layers on a pallet. Pallets with at least four layers of beverage bottles on top of each other are common. The shrink film is used to ensure the stability of all the bottles throughout the logistics process. The Commission's impact assessment already provided for exemptions from the ban if plastic grouped packaging is "*necessary for distribution handling reasons, e.g., to facilitate palletisation*" or for "*shelf-ready packaging units used both for distribution and for display on retail shelves*".

Note: During the PPWR webinar of December 16 2024, the representative of DG Environment commented "As regards bans under Art.25, the wording "single use plastic packaging" in Annex V PPWR should be interpreted in line with the definition of 'single-use plastic product' in SUPD".