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# Similarities and differences between the Belgian and Dutch approach

# Terminology Fibre Based Packaging

- Terminology used in both countries “paper/cardboard” and “beverage cartons”
- For paper/cardboard: the minimum fibre content threshold:
  - in Belgium currently 85%
  - in the Netherlands this is minimum 50% and can only be 1 sided coated (D4R guideline for Belgium)Moulded fibre is also allowed in both countries in the paper/cardboard stream (same requirements )
- Beverage cartons: both countries refer to laminated cartons with:
  - a structure of “Paper/alu/PE” or “Paper/PE”
  - a minimum fibre content of 70% for the Netherlands
  - and 50% for Belgium (green dot fees)In both countries they are mostly used for liquid products

# Operational similarities and differences



EPR



Packaged product



Collection



Sorting



Recycling

Similarities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One non-profit EPR for Household waste</li> <li>• EPR on behalf of producers and importers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost based approach for fees per material</li> <li>• D4R goals are identical; move towards a higher recycling rate</li> <li>• D4R criteria are similar; based on existing infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identical door to door collection systems for fibre based packaging</li> <li>• Drink cartons in PMD+ resembles the PMD in NL</li> <li>• Collection is the responsibility of local authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identical technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identical technology</li> <li>• Same market</li> </ul>
	Differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belgium has 4 different Green dot fees for paper cardboard and drink cartons</li> <li>• Recyclecheck document in the Netherlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threshold Paper cardboard 50% Netherlands; 85% Belgium</li> <li>• Drink cartons in the Netherlands contain more heavy products (e.g. Vla)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of drink cartons in NL can be different depending on the municipality</li> </ul>	

# Overview recyclability fibre-based packaging

	Recycled / good recyclable	Valorised / Not recyclable	Obstructive	Drink cartons
Belgium	Paper/ cardboard or moulded fibre with > 85% fibre content	Valorised= Paper/ cardboard or moulded fibre with <85% fibre content	Combination of fibre based packaging with metal or plastic closure	Drink cartons in paper/ alu / PE or Paper/PE with a minimum fibre content of 50%
Netherlands	Paper/ cardboard or moulded fibre with >50% fibre content Outcome Recyclecheck	Not recyclable = < 50% fibre content, double sided coated or food residu		Drink cartons in paper/ alu / PE or Paper/PE with a minimum fibre content of 70%

# D4R guidelines/ Recyclecheck similarities

## Similarities

- Give preference to monomaterials
- Avoid wetting agents and other substances that impact the recyclability negatively
- Paper and cardboard should be clean and dry (no food residus)

## Differences

- Double sided coating is not allowed in the Netherlands; In Belgium this is a D4R guideline
- Belgian D4R guidelines: allow separation of Paper from plastic if possible and communicate clearly on pack

## Conclusions

- **Operational systems** in both countries are **very similar** (Paper/cardboard stream and Drink cartons mostly via PMD)
- **Belgian green dot fees** and the **Recyclecheck** of the Netherlands are still referring to Paper/Cardboard even though moulded fibre and potentially other fibre-based materials that proof to be well recyclable with Paper cardboard stream are allowed in the stream
- Future scenarios (definition, test protocol, green dot classification, possible operational scenarios) – we are closely following the **4 Evergreen project** to see how we can align in the future on a European scale

# Thank you!

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