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Standards

Standard Recommendation
S.R. CEN/TR 13688:2008

Packaging - Material recycling - Report on requirements for substances and materials to prevent a sustained impediment to recycling

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S.R. CEN/TR 13688:2008

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English Version

**Packaging - Material recycling - Report on requirements for
substances and materials to prevent a sustained impediment to
recycling**

Emballages - Recyclage matière - Rapport sur les
exigences relatives aux substances et aux matériaux
destinés à éviter tout obstacle durable en recyclage

Verpackung - Stoffliche Verwertung - Bericht über
Anforderungen für Substanzen und Materialien zur
Verhinderung einer andauernden Behinderung der
stofflichen Verwertung

This Technical Report was approved by CEN on 1 June 2008. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 261.

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TR 13688:2008) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 261 "Packaging", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This document supersedes CR 13688:2000.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This report has been prepared by CEN/TC 261 SC 4 WG 3 in support of the Standards Mandated in M200 Rev 3, in particular the Principal Standard EN 13430 "Packaging - Requirements for packaging recoverable by material recycling".

Introduction

The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive states the essential requirements that must be satisfied for packaging to be placed on the market, and includes the requirements for that packaging to be considered recoverable. Recovery by material recycling is largely influenced by the materials used for packaging and the condition in which they arrive at the recycling operations. The materials and substances used in their manufacture and also the products contained can and will influence the collection, sorting and recycling operations. This report provides examples covering the main packaging materials and can be used as a guide for taking into account substances and materials that may be incorporated in packaging and which may, or do, inhibit subsequent operations related to recycling.

The Mandate M200 Rev 3 sets out the requirements for a number of principal standards and supporting reports. For Material Recycling, the mandate states the requirement for :

- the standard intended to give presumption of conformity with the essential requirements for packaging recoverable in the form of material recycling shall be in line with Annex 2, Clause 1, indent 1, 2 and 3 and Annex 2 Clause 3.(a) of the Directive.
- The requirements shall take into account :
 - substances or materials that are liable to create problems in the recycling process ;
 - materials, combinations of materials or designs of packaging, that are liable to create problems in collecting and sorting before material recycling ;
 - the presence of substances or materials that are liable to have a negative influence on the quality of the recycled material.

The standard EN 13430 sets out the basis on which packaging may be classified as recoverable by recycling. This is one of the routes for the recovery of used packaging, with the inter-relationship between the various routes being covered in the standard EN 13427.

The standard EN 13430 requires that the design, choice of materials and the manufacturing operations of packaging take into account the activities through which the used packaging will go when processed through the expected recovery operations. In particular that standard deals with the need to take into account the collection, sorting and recycling of the materials.

A good standard should be clear and unambiguous, readily and easily understood and enable the determination of whether the activity/product conforms to the requirements. As far as possible it must also be such that it has a longevity, by not being outdated by failing to cover all the issues that fall within its intended scope, or by the inevitable developments - technical and commercial - which are stimulated by the legal requirements, and even by the standard itself.

It is not appropriate for a standard to list "substances and materials that create problems..." as this will lead to the failure to satisfy the above requirement of a good standard, in that such a list may never be complete, and if a substance or material is not on the list it could justifiably be considered as fully acceptable. Also, technology is constantly being developed, and the so called problem materials may become no longer a problem.

A standard needs to avoid being prescriptive with the resultant fundamental principle that it is not the role of a standard to provide definitive lists, but rather to provide the basis on which any such defined lists are controlled/assessed or measured.

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