



DHL EXPRESS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

2026

Europe

EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

Last Update: 21 July 2026

GENERAL

1. What is the regulatory change?

The **Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)**, adopted as regulation (EU) 2025/40 on 19 December 2024, entered into force on 11 February 2025 and **will apply from 12 August 2026**.

The regulation aims to harmonise packaging requirements across all 27 European Union (EU27¹) Member States², establishing a common framework for producer responsibility obligations, packaging design, packaging waste prevention, reuse, recyclability and end-of-life management. By replacing the previous Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, the PPWR seeks to facilitate the functioning of the EU single market while supporting the transition to a circular economy and reducing the environmental impact of packaging.

¹ EU27 (European Union): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

² Norway is preparing to follow. Switzerland is aligning national legislation with PPWR.

2. Why is this regulatory change happening?

The regulation aims to reduce packaging waste, increase recycling, support the circular economy and create harmonised packaging rules across the European Union. It also seeks to improve resource efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of packaging throughout its lifecycle.

3. Will I need to dispose of existing packaging stock after 12 August 2026?

Packaging placed on the market before 12 August 2026 may continue to be used under the transition provisions of the regulation. Customers should review their specific obligations and seek legal or other professional advice where necessary.

4. What are the consequences of using non-compliant packaging?

Non-compliant packaging may potentially lead to shipment delays, refusal of market access, product withdrawal or recall, and administrative penalties (including fines).

5. What is covered by the PPWR?

PPWR **applies to all types of packaging** (shipping cartons, flyers, void fill, and pallets) as well as **packaging components and ancillary elements, regardless of origin**. It applies to all packaging placed on the EU market, including packaging supplied by third parties on your behalf.

6. How is DHL Express preparing for PPWR?

DHL Express is actively preparing for PPWR requirements and taking necessary steps that include:

- Reviewing and adapting our packaging portfolio to meet sustainability requirements,
- Working closely with our suppliers,
- Preparing for documentation requirements & future labelling obligations,
- Adjusting internal processes where needed.

IMPACT FOR SHIPPERS

7. What is the impact for shippers?

Companies placing packaged goods on the EU market may need to ensure their packaging:

- complies with applicable PPWR substance restrictions,
- is correctly identified (manufacturer, importer details and packaging traceability),
- is supported by the required compliance documentation (Declaration of Conformity, technical documentation where applicable),
- Meets applicable Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations complies with applicable Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations

Failure to comply may result in shipment delays, refusal of market access, product withdrawal or recall, and administrative penalties (including fines)

8. What can shippers do to avoid delays?

In order to avoid delays, shippers shall:

- ✓ Review the packaging used for EU shipments,
- ✓ Prepare for packaging identification requirements,
- ✓ Clarify their role and obligations under PPWR,
- ✓ Collect packaging compliance documentation from suppliers and store it for 5 years for single-use packaging and 10 years for reusable packaging,
- ✓ Check applicable EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) requirements,
- ✓ Consult legal or other experts where needed.

IMPACT FOR RECEIVERS

9. What is the impact for receivers?

Most receivers are unlikely to experience significant operational changes.

However, they may notice:

- Updated packaging identification markings,
- Additional identification information on packaging,
- Introduction of new packaging formats and sustainable packaging solutions.

Packaging performance, quality and functionality are expected to remain largely unchanged.

10. What can receivers do to avoid delays?

In order to avoid delays, receivers shall:

- ✓ Respond promptly to any regulatory information requests.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

11. Where can I find additional information?

For additional information, please consult the website below:

European Commission Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation information [Link](#)

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