

# RecyClass

A graphic consisting of three thick, light blue curved arrows arranged in a circular pattern, pointing clockwise. The arrows are positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the 'RecyClass' text and the main title box.

PLASTIC FUTURE IS  
CIRCULAR

PETinar Conference – May 6, 2022  
RecyClass for PET packaging

# RecyClass

## MISSION & VISION

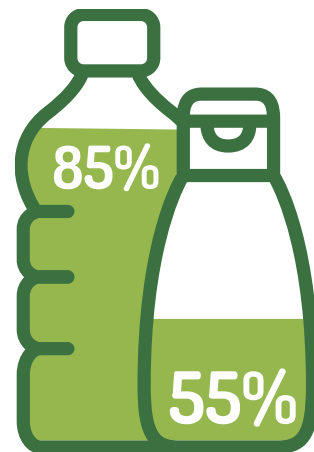
Plastic Future is Circular

**Making plastic circular** by ensuring all products are **recyclable** and by promoting **transparent uptake of recycled content** in new products in line with the circular economy

# RecyClass



RECYCLABILITY



RECYCLED  
CONTENT

# RecyClass | MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS

## BRANDS & RETAILERS



## CONVERTERS



## RAW MATERIAL PRODUCERS



## SUPPORTERS



# RecyClass



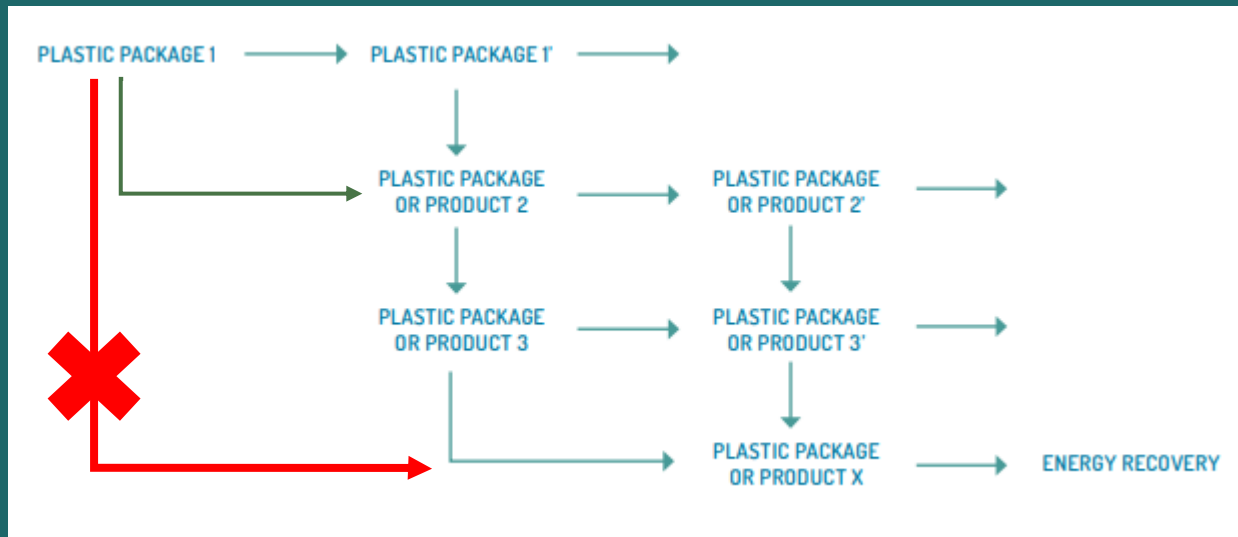
DESIGN FOR  
RECYCLING  
WITH RECYCLASS

DESIGN MATTERS!

# RecyClass

## WHAT DOES CIRCULARITY MEANS ?

‘A circular economy is one that is restorative and regenerative by design and **aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times**’ (MacArthur, 2015)



In some cases, functionality requirements make it difficult to design packaging for closed-loop recycling systems.

Designs enabling **expanded multi-step cascaded recycling** remain favourable, for such situations;

# RecyClass

## WHAT MAKES A PRODUCT RECYCLABLE ?



The product must be **made with plastic that is collected** for recycling, has market value and/or is supported by a legislatively mandated program.



The product must be **sorted & aggregated into defined streams** for recycling processes.



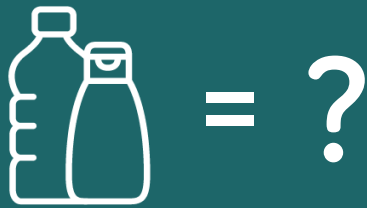
The product **can be processed & reclaimed/recycled** with commercial recycling processes.



The recycled plastic becomes a raw material that **is used in the production of new products.**

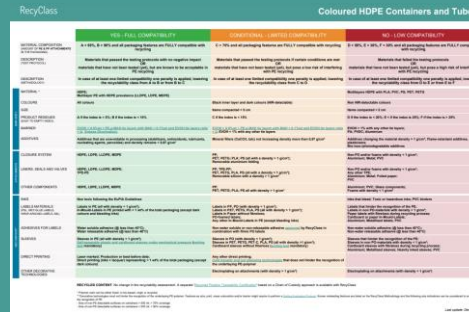
# RecyClass | HOW DOES RECYCLASS WORK ?

## TESTING PROTOCOLS



- **Lab testing** of innovative plastic packaging vs control material
- Comparison of properties
- **Technology/Product Approval**

## DESIGN FOR RECYCLING GUIDELINES



RECYCLABILITY	DESIGN FOR RECYCLING	RECYCLABILITY
100% Recyclable	100% Recyclable	100% Recyclable
90% Recyclable	90% Recyclable	90% Recyclable
80% Recyclable	80% Recyclable	80% Recyclable
70% Recyclable	70% Recyclable	70% Recyclable
60% Recyclable	60% Recyclable	60% Recyclable
50% Recyclable	50% Recyclable	50% Recyclable
40% Recyclable	40% Recyclable	40% Recyclable
30% Recyclable	30% Recyclable	30% Recyclable
20% Recyclable	20% Recyclable	20% Recyclable
10% Recyclable	10% Recyclable	10% Recyclable
0% Recyclable	0% Recyclable	0% Recyclable

- Design guide & recommendations for plastic packaging
- Design for Recycling (DfR) Guidelines transposed in the tool
- Assessing **overall recyclability** of a finished package

## RECYCLABILITY ASSESSMENTS



- Recyclability Self-Assessment with the RecyClass **Online Tool**
- RecyClass Team support
- **Recyclability Certification**



# RECYCLABILITY CLASSES



## CLASS A

The packaging does not pose any recyclability issues and the recycled plastics can potentially feed a closed-loop scheme to be used in the same quality application.



## CLASS B

The packaging has some minor recyclability issues that slightly affect the quality of the recycled plastic generated. However, majority of recycled plastics from this packaging can still potentially feed a closed loop.



## CLASS C

The packaging presents some recyclability issues that affect the quality of the recycled plastics or lead to material losses during recycling. In the first case the recycled plastic could be used in a cascade open-loop scheme, whereas in the latter case the plastic could potentially feed a closed loop scheme.



## CLASS D

The packaging has significant design issues that highly affect its recyclability or imply large material losses. In both cases the recycled plastic can only be fed into low-value applications (i.e. the packaging will be downcycled).



## CLASS E

The packaging has major design issues that jeopardize its recyclability or imply severe material losses. The packaging is not considered recyclable and can only be used in incineration with energy recovery.



## CLASS F

The package is not recyclable at all, either because of fundamental design issues or a lack of specific infrastructure for collection, sorting and recycling in EU28+2.

# RECYCLASS METHODOLOGY

- 1 EXISTING RECYCLING STREAMS & SORTABILITY
- 2 RECYCLABLE PLASTIC CONTENT
- 3 DESIGN INCOMPATIBILITIES (DfR guidelines)
- 4 EASY-TO-EMPTY / EASY-TO-ACCESS INDEX
- 5 REACH COMPLIANCE

### DESIGN FOR RECYCLING ASSESSMENT



- **Qualitative Assessment:** ranking from A to F
- Valid for the **EU market**
- Based on the **European plastic waste streams**
- Packaging design, sorting behaviour, end-markets included

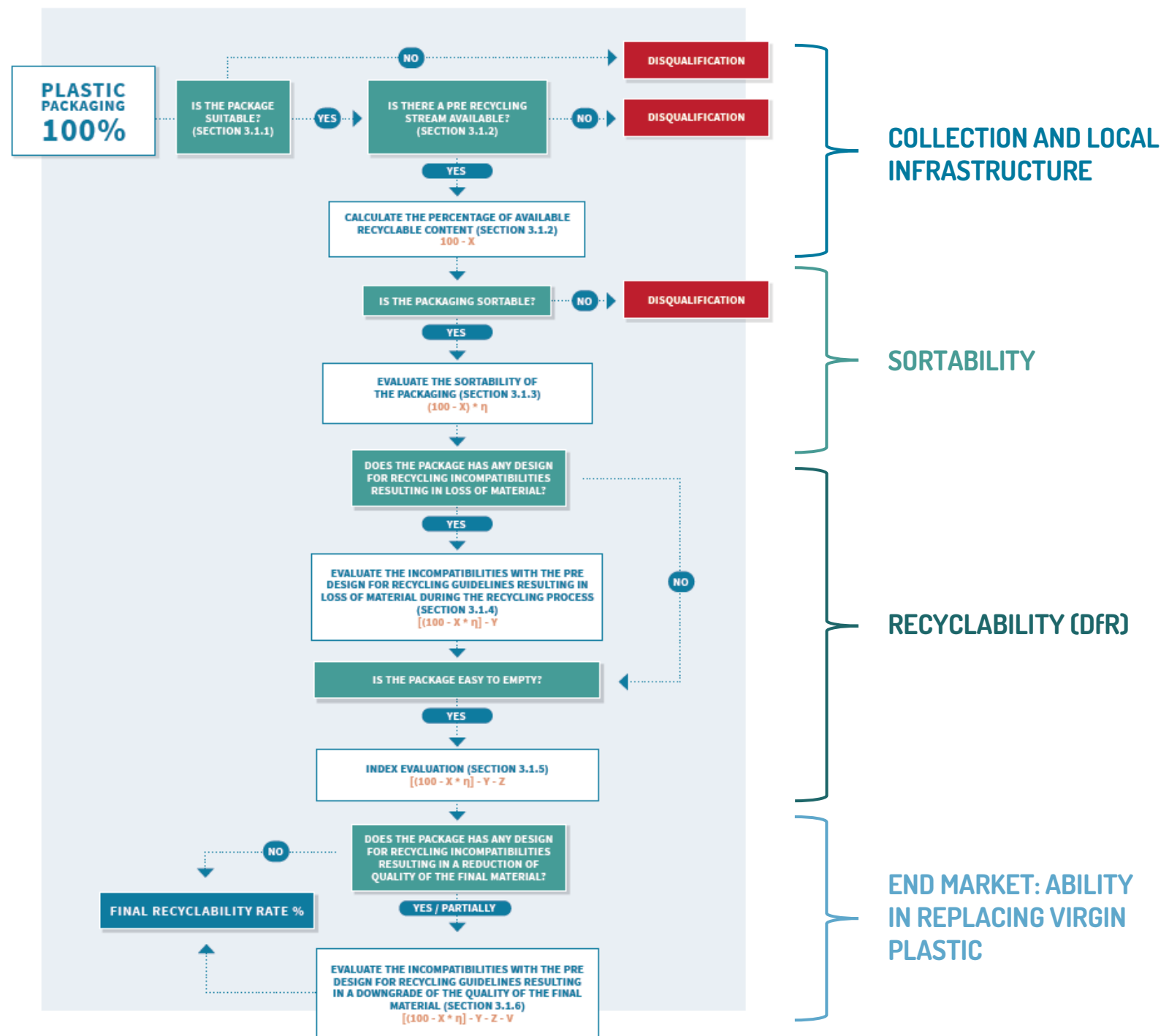
### RECYCLABILITY RATE ASSESSMENT



- **Quantitative Assessment:** % of recyclable content, in addition to class ranking
- **Country-specific**
- Based on the **local collection and availability of infrastructures**
- Packaging design, sorting behaviour, end-markets included



# RecyClass



# RecyClass | HOW TO CLAIM RECYCLABILITY ?

## DESIGN FOR RECYCLING GUIDELINES

The image shows a table titled 'RecyClass Coloured HDPE Containers and Tubes'. The table is organized into three columns: 'Green HDPE Containers and Tubes', 'Orange HDPE Containers and Tubes', and 'Red HDPE Containers and Tubes'. Each column contains detailed technical specifications and requirements for different types of plastic packaging, including material grades, wall thicknesses, and recycling instructions. The table is a comprehensive design guide for manufacturers.

- Design guide & recommendations for plastic packaging
- Design for Recycling (DfR) Guidelines transposed in the tool
- Assessing **overall recyclability** of a finished package

## RECYCLASS TOOL



- Recyclability Self-Assessment
- RecyClass Team support

## RECYCLABILITY CERTIFICATION



- Recyclability **Assessment** by recognized Certification Bodies

# RecyClass | RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION BODIES

- HARMONIZED DESIGN FOR RECYCLING GUIDELINES
- HARMONIZED RECYCLABILITY METHODOLOGY



BRAZIL



SPAIN



EU 27+3



AUSTRIA



GREECE, SERBIA



FRANCE



ITALY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL



NORWAY



UK, IRELAND



GERMANY



SWITZERLAND

## RecyClass

### RECYCLABILITY RATE CERTIFICATE

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

**PRODUCT NAME**  
**BRAND NAME**  
LEGAL COMPANY NAME AND ADDRESS

The product and equivalent products listed in Annex I were assessed and certified according to RecyClass Recyclability Methodology (version 1.1) and Design for Recycling Guidelines (Feb. 2021), hereby obtaining the following recyclability rate and class:

# 90%

RECYCLABILITY

The value represents the proportion of material in the packaging that is recoverable and valuable for the recycling stream.

ABCDEF

The certificate and its result are valid for: France, Germany, Spain and Italy

<p>Audit Report and Certificate Registration Code: _____</p> <p>Date of issue of Certificate: _____</p> <p>Date of expiration of Certificate: _____</p>	<p>CERTIFIED BY:</p> <p>NAME OF AUDITOR Title of auditor</p> <p>CERTIFICATION NAME Certification address</p>
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\*Validity conditions and terms of use may be found in the Audit Scheme documents.

RecyClass - Avenue de Broqueville 12, 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre - Belgium - Phone : +32 2 315 24 60 - info@recyclclass.eu - www.recyclclass.eu PAGE 1/X



[Detailed list and contacts of certification online](#)

# RecyClass

## DESIGN FOR RECYCLING GUIDELINES

### FULL COMPATIBILITY

Green column gathers the preferred design features, that guarantee the best recyclability and quality of the recycle.

### LIMITED COMPATIBILITY

Yellow column lists the second choices for each packaging features, that have been tested, known, or supposed to slightly impact the recycling and/or the quality of the recycle.

### LOW COMPATIBILITY

Red column classifies the detrimental and disqualifying features that should be avoided when designing a packaging, as strongly impacting the recycling and/or the quality of the recycle.



PET bottles (clear/light blue and colored)



Clear PET trays



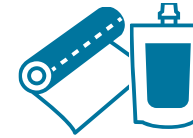
HDPE containers & tubes (colored and transparent)



PP containers & tubes (colored and transparent)



EPS fish boxes



PE films (colored and natural)



PP films (colored and natural)



PS colored containers



Crates and Pallets



EPS white goods

# RecyClass

**CERTIFYING RECYCLED  
CONTENT: TRACEABILITY  
OF RECYCLED PLASTICS FOR  
RELIABLE CLAIMS**

TRACEABILITY. TRANSPARENCY. TRUST.

# INTRODUCTION

- **ROBUST AND TRANSPARENT CLAIMS OF RECYCLED CONTENT ARE ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE CREDIBILITY.**
- **TRACEABILITY IS KEY TO FACILITATE VERIFIED AND TRANSPARENT CLAIMS.**
- **CERTIFICATION IS THE RIGHT TOOL TO RECOGNISE USE OF RECYCLED PLASTICS.**



- **Reassure consumers, provide trust to end-users (B2C)**– increasing public interest in recycled content.



- **Demonstrate compliance with legislation (B2B)**–increasing regulation; address use of claims by a third-party verification.



- **Underpin quality** – ensure certain Standard Operating Procedures are implemented. Problem solving and correction.



- **Show transparency** - information about the waste origin and source.



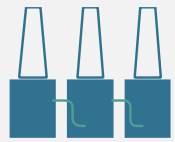
- **Support corporate sustainability claims** about recycled content.



# RecyClass | FOCUS & SCOPE

→ Certification **recognises the use of recycled plastics in products** via an independent third-party audit. Certification is granted to a process linked to a product or group of products.

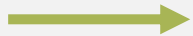
→ Audit Scheme verifies the traceability of recycled material in different process steps throughout **the whole chain of custody of the recycled material**.



RECYCLER



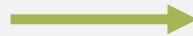
Traceability  
Certification  
EN 15343



COMPOUNDER



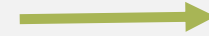
Recycled Content  
Traceability  
Certification



CONVERTER



Recycled Content  
Traceability  
Certification



PRODUCER

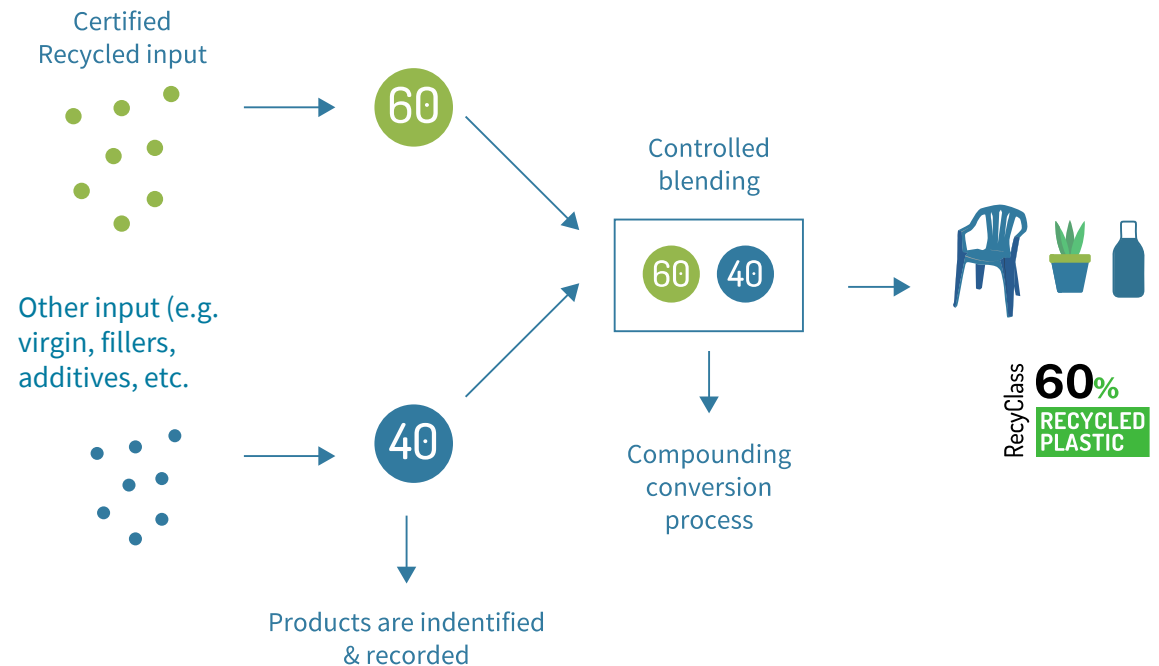


Recycled Content  
Traceability  
Certification

# RecyClass

## CONTROLLED BLENDING CHAIN OF CUSTODY

- Certification follows a **controlled blending approach** as a chain of custody model as described in ISO/IEC 22095:2020.
- The certification relates to recycled plastics when mixed with other materials or substances resulting in a **known proportion of recycled content of plastics** in output products.
- Focus on the **physical presence** of recycled plastics in the output.



Documentation available online

# RecyClass | CHALLENGES & RISKS



## FREE ALLOCATION OF RECYCLED CONTENT

Recycled content calculation must refer to real percentages, not credit systems between products, production lines, plants, etc.



## SELF-DECLARATION OF ORIGIN OF WASTE

Downstream users declaring origin of material must not be permitted. Origin of the waste must be verified in case of Certification.



# RecyClass | RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION BODIES

Certificates are issued by recognised Certification Bodies only



B-Pack BVPA

Sachverständigenbüro M.  
Ahaus



Detailed list and contacts of certification [online](#)

# RecyClass | USE OF CLAIMS

Guidance detailing when and how to use RecyClass **claims and logos** by certified companies and products for both **B2B and B2C communications**.

## RECYCLABILITY:

- Technology/Product Approval
- Letter of Compatibility
- Design-for-Recycling Certification
- Recyclability Rate Certification

## RECYCLED CONTENT:

- Recycled Plastics Traceability Certification



# RecyClass

# PET: A SYNERGIC VALUE CHAIN APPROACH



Develops and maintains testing protocols and manage applications to assess PET bottles recyclability

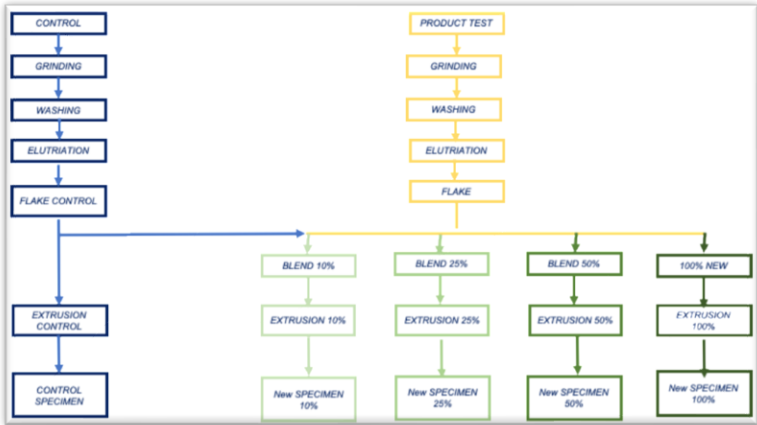


# RecyClass

Recyclability Methodology (based on EPBP & Petcore guidelines) and certification for recyclability and recycled content

Process steps		
Pellets		
Bottles		
Grinding		
Washing		
Air elutriation		
Flakes		
Flake mixing (2, 5, 10, 25 and 50% test)		
Extrusion to pellets		
Route 1	Route 2	Route 3
Solid stating for Colour	Solid stating for 0.80 IV	Crystallization pellets
Pellet blending (50/50)	Pellet blending (50/50)	Fibre spinning
Injection Molding plaques	Injection Molding Preforms	Film extrusion (gels/specks)
Testing Plaques on colour	Blow molding bottles	
	Testing bottles	

Develops and maintains testing protocols and manage applications to assess PET trays recyclability



## RecyClass

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Audit Report and Certificate Registration Code:

Date of issue of Certificate:

Date of expiration of Certificate:

CERTIFIED BY:

NAME OF AUDITOR

Level of auditor

CERTIFICATION NAME

Certificate address

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A graphic consisting of four thick, light blue curved arrows arranged in a circle, pointing clockwise. The arrows are positioned around the central text, creating a circular flow effect.

# RecyClass

PLASTICS FUTURE IS CIRCULAR

[www.recyclclass.eu](http://www.recyclclass.eu)