

## TAKE-BACK OBLIGATIONS

## WASTE 3

Certain types of waste are subject to a take-back obligation in Wallonia. This obligation makes producers, importers and traders responsible for the waste that their products generate in order to encourage their collection, recycling or recovery. The types of waste in question were chosen in particular because of the importance of their flow or because they are hazardous to the environment and health.

Currently, ten types of waste are subject to a take-back obligation in Wallonia. The Interregional Cooperation Agreement (Accord de coopération interrégionale) of 04/11/2008 (modified by the Cooperation Agreement (Accord de coopération) of 02/04/2015) pertains to single-use packaging and the Walloon Government Decree of 23/09/2010 organises the remaining nine flows.

## Targets nearly achieved for single-use packaging

The quantity of single-use packaging placed on the Belgian market in 2014 was estimated at 1,657 kt<sup>1</sup>. The recovery rates obtained for household and industrial single-use packaging exceeded the annual targets set in the Interregional Cooperation Agreement. In the specific case of recycling, the targets were almost met, with a high recycling rate for glass (100%), metals (98.2%) and paper/cardboard (90.6%).

## Encouraging results for other waste

In 2015, collection targets were not met for (i) used non-food oils (the reasons for the low collection rate of this flow have not yet been clearly identified by the body in charge of the take-back obligation), (ii) end-of-life vehicles (increased average age of vehicles, increased exports outside the EU, etc.) and (iii) waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), in particular, "professional" WEEE, due to a collection system that is still not

very developed, despite the introduction by RECUPEL in 2009 of a charter between holders and collectors of WEEE. As regards recycling targets, these have all been met.

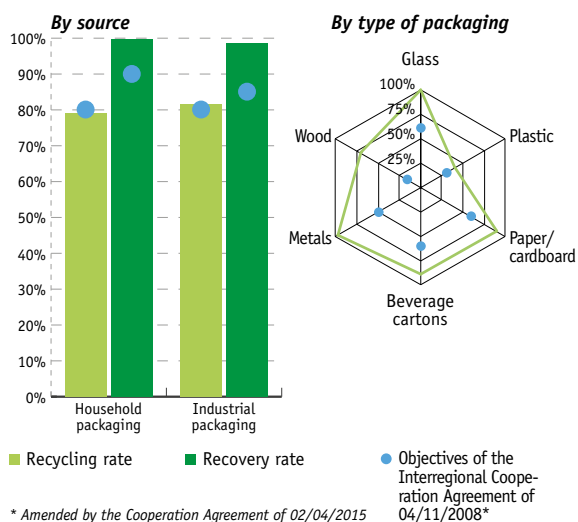
## New regulatory framework

Following the adoption of the Decree of 23/06/2016, enhanced producer responsibility has been further extended. It can now take one of three forms: a take-back obligation, a reporting obligation or a participation obligation. This new decree also provides for:

- a review of the take-back obligation mechanism by allowing producers (i) either to set up an individual system via an individual management plan or (ii) to entrust the fulfilment of the obligation to an eco-organisation authorised to implement a collective system under a licence or environmental agreement;
- a limit of the provisions and reserves of the bodies responsible for executing a take-back obligation to a maximum of eighteen months of activity (unless a derogation is granted) in order to ensure that the amount of contributions<sup>2</sup> corresponds to the actual cost of the take-back obligations.

<sup>[1]</sup> Estimate from the recognised organisations Fost Plus and VAL-I-PAC on the basis of an internal study | <sup>[2]</sup> Fees paid by producers, which are ultimately passed on to consumers.

Fig. WASTE 3-1 Recycling and recovery rate of single-use packaging placed on the Belgian market (2014)



Tab. WASTE 3-1 Collection and recycling rate of waste flows subject to a take-back obligation (2015)

WASTE FLOW	LEVEL	COLLECTION TARGET*	COLLECTION RATE	RECYCLING TARGET	RECYCLING RATE
Lead-acid batteries	Belgium	95%	Target achieved	65% of the average weight of lead-acid batteries	Target achieved
				95% of lead content	
Used non-food oils	Belgium	90%	Target almost achieved	60%**	Target achieved
Tyres	Belgium	100%	Target not achieved	55%**	Target achieved
End-of-life vehicles	Belgium	100%	Target not achieved	85%**	Target achieved
WEEE (household)	Wallonia	45%	Target almost achieved	Between 50% and 80% depending on the categories of WEEE	Target achieved
WEEE (professional)					
Mobile and industrial batteries and accumulators	Wallonia	Mobile: 50% Industrial: 100%	N/A	Lead-acid batteries: 65%	Target achieved
				Nickel-cadmium batteries: 75%	
Other batteries: 50%					
Used food oils and fats (household)	Wallonia	30%	Target achieved	100%***	Target achieved
Photographic waste	Wallonia	70%	Target achieved	N/A	N/A

\* Depending on the waste flow in question, it is calculated either from quantities placed on the market or from collectible quantities. \*\* The rate includes the reuse of the waste in question. \*\*\* Valorisation objective (recycling, regeneration or energy recovery) N/A = value not available. SOERW 2017 - Sources: RECUPEL; BEBAT; VALORFRIT; FOTINI; FEBELAUTO; RECYTY; RECYBAT; VALORLUB