

HYGIENE AND FOOD SAFETY OF REUSABLE PLASTIC CRATES

HYGIENE AND FOOD SAFETY



There are

NO THREATS

NO HAZARDS

associated with the hygiene of reusable plastic crates, including for food contact.

Consequently, the exclusion of transport packaging from reuse targets is **unjustified**.

Why?

1

Regulations 852/2004 and 1935/2004, which regulate hygiene and food-contact materials, apply to **all types of packaging** regardless of whether they are intended for single use or multiple uses.

2

Industrial washing has not only been working at scale **for decades** in sectors with direct contact with food, but also follows the **highest hygiene standards**.

3

There are international standards with which pooling companies must comply in their crate washing activities, to ensure that **there are no risks** in terms of health and hygiene.

4

Studies indicate that food is **safer** when transported in reusable plastic crates and results in **significantly lower food waste** rates, due to significantly smaller breakage rates.

PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION



Exempting reusable transport packaging coming in direct contact with food from the scope of reuse targets is **unjustified and will have the most negative consequences on the EU's waste prevention and reduction ambitions**.

CARDBOARD EXEMPTION: A THREAT TO PPWR'S OBJECTIVES

WHY?

To achieve the reuse targets, it is important to **include cardboard boxes** in the efforts to scale up reusable packaging.

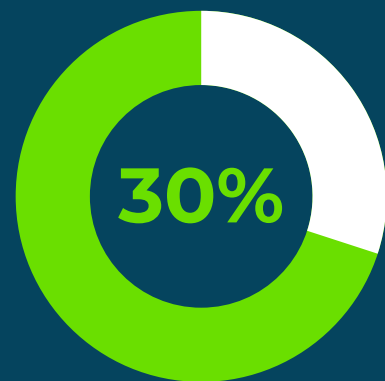
The exemption currently in place encourages businesses to use **single-use cardboard boxes** instead.

Here is the problem...

According to the German NGO NABU, cardboard makes almost

70%

of the market for transport packaging.



As long as the cardboard exemption applies, the reuse targets will apply **only to the rest 30%** of transport packaging, of which a big part is already reusable.

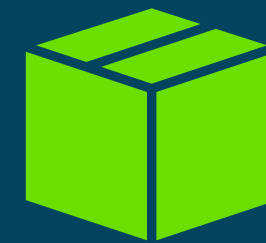
PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION

The exclusion of cardboard from the implementation of reuse targets will result in **increasing amounts of packaging and waste**.

Also, the production of cardboard boxes has been associated with **highly detrimental** effects to the environment.

Why cardboard

IS NOT SUSTAINABLE



50%

In the EU, **half of all paper** is used for packaging, and 'paper and cardboard' was the main **packaging waste material** from 2009 to 2020.



40%

Globally, the paper and paperboard sector consume around 40% of **industrially harvested wood**.



10kg

From 2012 to 2020, annual **paper packaging waste generated per person** rose by over 10 kilograms (kg).

REUSABLE PLASTIC CRATES VS CARDBOARD BOXES

PLASTIC CRATES PREVAIL!

Here is **why** reusable plastic crates outperform cardboard boxes...

The corrugated cardboard industry (FEFCO) launched a study last year claiming that single-use carton boxes outperform reusable plastic crates.

However, these statements have been **debunked** by Fraunhofer, Europe's largest application-oriented research organisation.

According to Fraunhofer, reusable transport crates (RPCs) outperform single-use carton boxes in...



PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION

Compared to cardboard,

RPCs are distinguished by a:

- 1 Lower breakage rate**
of **0.02%** compared to 0.82% in cardboard.
This indicates that **products are safer in RPCs** and that less servicing is necessary to prevent food waste.
- 2 Lower greenhouse gas emissions**
throughout its lifecycle, where optimized transport, number of rotations all play a role.
- 3 Better material efficiency**
- 4 Better recycling rates**
99% for RPC and 83% for cardboard. Cardboard production means that every year **200.000** trees need to be felled.