

# Happy birthday, EPR!

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation is the driving force behind the adoption of collecting, recycling and remanufacturing products as it places a focus on a products' [secondary application](#). In the field of waste management, EPR is also a strategy that considers the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle and aims to increase the degree of product recovery to lower environmental impact.

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It has been a full year since Section 18 of the Waste Management act has come into effect on 5 May 2021.

2022 is the first year of EPR implementation and reporting.  
**Are you fully compliant?**

As a supporter of the circular economy and the DFFE legislation, it is our responsibility to support and encourage registration with the DFFE and the relevant PROs. **Mpact Plastics has been contributing to EPR**, indirectly on your behalf, by means of a voluntary levy, for a number of years and is an existing member of Packaging SA, Plastics SA, SA COPCO and PROs POLYCO and PETCO.

Under the guidance of registered PROs [PETCO](#) and [POLYCO](#), the South African packaging and retail industry has taken hands with leading brands to ensure that the [entire value chain act responsibly](#) in our joint effort to achieve a [circular economy](#).

The EPR regulations were originally published late in 2020 and industry conversations continued with enthusiasm until the regulation was published on 5 May 2021. **Now celebrating its first birthday**, we can look forward to 2022 being the first year of implementation, reporting and meeting targets.

## Recycling does not begin with collection



Recycling starts with packaging design. Passing the responsibility of recycling to all members in the value chain helps to achieve high environmental standards in terms of product design and ensuring compliance to the [‘design for recyclability’](#) principles, as set out by the registered PROs. Designing for recyclability is key in ensuring the circular transition for plastic packaging and assist members in making better product design choices. The main objective is to use a substrate that is fit for purpose and do it in such a way that the resultant product is easy to recycle and is compatible with an existing recycling stream.

## Let’s talk fees

The EPR fees, submitted to the minister on 5 November 2021, was determined by the PROs and their members in line with the requirements set out in Section 7(3) of the EPR regulations and is based on the polymer grades' ease of recyclability, weight, recycling demand, cost of raising awareness, auditing and the cost of collection, transport, storage and treatment collected waste. All 'producers'\*are required to communicate tonnages converted to the respective PROs, together with the amount of product exported so that the PRO can provide the converter with a fee rebate.

### What is the target?

The legislation covers glass, metal, paper and plastic packaging. For plastic packaging, the targets vary per product type, set out in the [legislation](#) and covers rigid, flexible multilayer polyolefin packaging, vinyls, polystyrene and PET beverage bottles, oil bottles, thermoformed PET and flexible PET.

Product Class	Year	Design (Recycled Content) %	Collection Target %	Recycling Target %
<b>Plastic PET Beverage Bottles</b>				
	1	10	60	54
	2	12.5	64	58
	3	13	66	59
	4	15	68	61
	5	20	70	65
<b>Plastic PET Oil Bottle</b>				
	1		7	6
	2		13	12
	3		25	23
	4		32	29
	5		39	35
<b>Plastic Thermoformed PET</b>				
	1		9	8
	2		13	12
	3		19	17
	4		27	24
	5		35	30
<b>Polyolefins (Rigid)</b>				
	1		55	39
	2		57	42
	3		60	45
	4		61	48
	5		64	52
<b>Polyvinyl Chloride (Rigid &amp; Flexible)</b>				
	1		6	5
	2		6.5	5.5
	3		7	6
	4		7.5	6.5
	5		8	7
<b>Polystyrene</b>				
	1		22	20
	2		27	25
	3		33	30
	4		40	36
	5		48	43

### If the PROs are monitoring the industry, who's monitoring the PROs?

No boxes have been left unchecked. Although subjected to performance reviews and accreditation by state authorities to ensure compliance and performance, PROs members should be actively involved in the oversight of their chosen PROs to ensure effective functioning. Being managed by both members and state authorities, PROs that fail to achieve the mandated targets may lose their accreditation, be issued with a fine or even face imprisonment.

### Important links

We don't just communicate, we educate. Our university affiliated research team is widely respected for their expert knowledge about EPR schemes. Through this valuable resource, we are able to engage and guide our customers through journey of EPR compliance. To become compliant, refer to our 'easy to read', step-by-step [EPR journey guide](#) or contact our expert research team on [epr@mpact.co.za](mailto:epr@mpact.co.za).

To register with the DFFE: <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/epr/regindex.php>

Become a PETCO member: <https://petco.co.za/member-portal/become-a-member/>

Become a POLYCO member: <https://www.polyco.co.za/become-a-member/>

To read the full article, click [here](#).



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We value your opinion.  
Please participate in  
our customer survey.

\*"Producer" means the entity, person or category of persons identified by the Regulations as being responsible for extended producer responsibility in terms of Section 18. Producers who place in excess of 10 tonnes of identified products onto the market on an annual basis, responsible for extended producer responsibility under the regulations shall be identified subject to the following criteria:

- (a) In the case where branded goods, either are identified products or are sold accompanied by or within identified products and the registered owner of the brand operates an enterprise, domiciled in South Africa, that makes and/or sells such goods, the producer shall be the paper, packaging and single use product manufacturer, converter and/or brand owners.
- (b) In the case where branded goods, either are identified products or are sold accompanied by or within identified products and the registered owner of the brand does not operate or have a controlling interest in an enterprise domiciled in South Africa, that makes and/or sells such goods, the Producer shall be either:
  - a. The licensed agent of the branded goods, or
  - b. Where no official agency agreement may be in place, the importer of the branded goods as depicted on the Bill of Lading.
- (c) In the case of all other identified products not covered by subparagraphs (i) and (ii) the producer shall be the Retailer

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**Mpact**



Mpact is the largest paper and plastics packaging and recycling business in Southern Africa. Our integrated business model is uniquely focused on closing the loop in plastic and paper packaging through recycling and beneficiation of recyclables.

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