

The 'Recyclability Assessment Methodology' (RAM)

What is the 'Recyclability Assessment Methodology' (RAM)?

The 'Recyclability Assessment Methodology' (RAM) is a mandatory part of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for large organisations. The RAM requires all household like packaging placed on the market from 1st January 2025 to be reported under EPR accompanied by a RAG classification. The EPR scheme administrator PackUK has now released final guidance for 2025 RAM reporting online at:

www.gov.uk/government/news/recyclability-assessment-methodology-ram-v11

How it works:

All packaging that could end up in household waste streams must be assessed under this methodology. There are 9 categories of materials that must be assessed under RAM:

- Paper and board
- Fibre-based composites
- Plastic (rigids)
- Plastic (flexibles)
- Steel
- Aluminium
- Glass
- Wood
- Other

This information must be reported in HY1 2025 submissions.



We are currently reviewing the detail of the RAM, how it affects the products we supply to our customers, and how we build this into our EPR reporting ahead of the HY1 2025 reporting deadline in October 2025. Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

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The stages of recyclability:

The RAM evaluates recyclability by focusing on all 5 of the end-of-life packaging stages. These are:

- Classification- how the whole packaging unit and individual components are assessed
- Collection- the main route for the packaging to end up in recycling
- Sortation- the process of capturing and diverting waste packaging into their appropriate waste streams
- Reprocessing- the technical process of creating recycle from each of the packaging waste streams
- Application- the factors which may affect the quality of recycle produced or cause unnecessary secondary material loss in the recycling process



The scale:

The RAM operates on a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) system*:

- **Red** - packaging has specification that make it difficult to recycle at scale
- **Amber** - packaging may experience challenges during collection and sortation, requires specialist infrastructure for reprocessing, the efficiency and output quality of reprocessing is affected, or there is some secondary material loss
- **Green** - packaging is widely recyclable in the current UK infrastructure

The RAG classification given to a piece of packaging informs the EPR fee charged for this item through the eco-modulation of fees.

*The RAG scale used for RAM is different from the RAG scale included in our material footprint reports.

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