









# General Notice

## Behaviour of PS labels or sleeves during the recycling of PET bottles

### 1/ Summary table of impacts on regeneration

Recycling stage	Impact	Description	Consequences
 Sorting on bottles (optional)	∅	-	-
 Crushing	∅	-	-
 Flotation		Depending on their density, flakes are directed into the PET stream (d>1) or the PE+PP stream (d<1).	PET stream pollution Pollution of the PE+PP stream (caps and labels)
 Washing	∅	-	-
 Granulation  Recycling		With a fusion temperature well below that of PET, deterioration of PS during shaping	Deterioration of the PS creates impurities and causes yellowing of pale material (not visible in dark material). Resulting quality problems



Caution



No impact

→ Environmental consequences

### 2/ COTREP's conclusion

With the techniques and equipment currently available and in use in Europe, a PS sleeve can disrupt the recycling of PET. If its density is above 1 it will not be separated and will be present in the final material. During temperature conversion, PS has a tendency to deteriorate and cause yellowing of the material.

**COTREP recommends substitution of PS with a different, more compatible plastic where possible.**

**NB:** In the case of an integral sleeve or label, the behaviour of the packaging may vary, particularly during the sorting stages. For further information please consult General Notice No. 12.