COmité
Technique de
Recyclage des
Emballages
Plastiques

GENERAL NOTICE
Technical Sheet

SUBJECT

Behaviour of an aluminium seal in PET bottles recycling.

IMPACT SUMMARY TABLE

Recycling stage	Impact	Description	Consequences
Sorting of bottles	⚠	1 bottle with aluminium seal detected, ⇨ up to 10 bottles with no aluminium seal ejected.	• Higher losses ➢ **Increase in waste to be processed**
Pre-washing (optional)	Ø		
Grinding	Ø		
Washing	Ø		
Flake floating and separation	⚠	Aluminium particles are not eliminated and remain in the PET stream	• PET stream polluted
Pellet sorting (optional)	⚠	1 aluminium particle detected ⇨ up to 1,000 non-aluminium flakes ejected	• Higher losses ➢ **Increase in waste to be processed**
Granulation (optional)	⚠	Presence of aluminium particles: ⇨ - Filters blocked - Channel blocked - Visual flaws - Holes, etc	Process disruption - increase in machine stoppages - higher losses • Quality flaws ➢ **Increase in waste to be processed**
Recycling	Ø		

⚠ Caution Ø No impact ⌛ Under examination ➢ **Environmental consequences**

GENERAL OPINION

In the current state of equipment and techniques used and available in Europe, this type of closure significantly disrupts PET bottle recycling.

COTREP recommends studying substitute systems that take inter-material compatibility into account and/or systems that require the seal to be completely removed on opening.

Work is in progress in the relevant trades and this notice is likely to evolve.