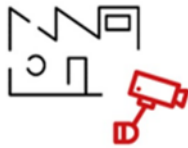


General Notice

Impact of PET cans with aluminium tops

Summary

The purpose of this general notice is to assess the recyclability of PET cans with an aluminium top.




Sorting centre
Ability of packaging waste
to be channelled to the
regeneration plant



Regeneration
Ability of packaging waste to
be converted into ready-to-use
flakes or granulate



Use of recycled material
Ability of flakes or granulate
to be converted into new
products

 Study scope

COTREP would like to point out that the presence of aluminium significantly disrupts PET packaging recycling (AG 01).

Consequently, given the current state of equipment and sorting and regeneration techniques available in France, PET cans with an aluminium top are not recyclable when mixed with PET packaging streams.

1/ CONTEXT









PET cans with aluminium tops are still rare on the French market but they have been growing in number since 2010. This packaging offers the advantage of showing its content.

PET cans fall into the plastic bottle category and are therefore in the national sorting instructions issued to the French population. In sorting centres, most PET cans with aluminium tops are channelled to PET recycling streams.

2/ PRINCIPLE AND ANALYSIS CRITERIA

COTREP has studied the impact of any type of aluminium component associated with rigid PET packaging on recycling (see AG 01). **COTREP would like to point out that the presence of aluminium significantly disrupts PET packaging recycling.**

The table below indicates the impact of PET cans with aluminium tops at PET regeneration plants.

Recycling stage	Impact	Description
Sorting of packaging at regeneration line entry		Increase in losses → Loss of material, increase in waste to be processed
 SHREDDING		Abrasive to the grinder blades → Equipment wear
 WASHING AND FLOTATION		The aluminium particles are not eliminated and remain in the PET stream → PET stream pollution
Flake sorting		Increase in losses → Loss of material, increase in waste to be processed
 EXTRUSION/ GRANULATION		Presence of aluminium flakes Disruption of the process: → Clogging of filters and dies, visual flaws, increase in machine stoppages Quality defect: → Loss of material, increase in waste to be processed

 : Caution  : No impact

TECHNICAL CONCLUSIONS

PET cans with aluminium tops are composed of two materials. In its AG 01, COTREP concluded that these 2 materials are not compatible in PET regeneration streams and that aluminium significantly disrupts PET packaging recycling.

Given the current state of equipment and sorting and regeneration techniques available in France, PET cans with an aluminium top are not recyclable when mixed with PET packaging streams.