

COMPOSITE PACKAGING

TECHNICAL DEFINITION

Pursuant to Article 3(26) Austrian Packaging Ordinance 2014 (as amended by Federal Law Gazette II No. 597/2021), composite packaging is defined as **packaging made of two or more layers of different materials** which **cannot be separated by hand** and form a **single integral unit** that it is filled, stored, transported and emptied as such.

EXAMPLES

Composite Materials	Packaging examples
Plastic + metal	Blister packs (e. g. for medication, sweets); metal-coated bags (above all coated with aluminium, e. g. coffee bags)
Paper + plastic, cardboard + plastic, paperboard + plastic and corrugated paperboard + plastic	Single- and double-sided coated/laminated/bonded paper, cardboard, paperboard and corrugated paperboard; composite cardboard; vacuum packaging; (glued) blister packs; paperboard tubes or paperboard boxes with plastic base or lid; boxes with glued-in EPS moulds
Cardboard + metal, paperboard + metal and cardboard + plastic + metal	Cardboard boxes with an aluminium bag inside (e. g. for coffee or tea); paperboard tubes or paperboard boxes with a plastic (metal) base and/or lid
Coated/impregnated paper, cardboard and corrugated paperboard	Waxed paper, cardboard, paperboard and corrugated paperboard; paraffin paper, cardboard, paperboard and corrugated paperboard; oiled paper, cardboard, paperboard and corrugated paperboard
Wood + metal, wood + plastic	Pallets or crates and other wooden packaging with metal reinforcement; pallets with plastic blocks

The definition of composite materials does not include combinations of packaging materials of the same type, such as paper + paper, paper + paperboard or plastic + plastic, as well as all combinations of packaging materials and packaging aids, provided that they do not fall below the thresholds for single-material packaging listed overleaf.

DEFINITION FOR YOUR DATA REPORTS

The rules for the classification of packaging materials that applied until 31 December 2021 are largely identical to those set out in Annex 5 of the Packaging Ordinance 2014 (as amended by Federal Law Gazette II No. 597/2021). The classification is based on the **weight ratio** of materials contained in **composite packaging**. Please refer to the table below for details. Please refer to the ARA fact sheet on beverage cartons for a definition of composite materials as opposed to beverage cartons.

Share of packaging material	to license as	
	Single-material packaging	Other composite material
Paper, cardboard, paperboard and corrugated paperboard ¹⁾	≥ 80 % ²⁾	< 80 %
Wood	≥ 80 %	< 80 %
Ceramics	≥ 80 %	< 80 %
Aluminium	≥ 80 %	< 80 %
Ferrous metal	≥ 80 %	< 80 %
Textiles	≥ 80 %	< 80 %
Plastic	≥ 95 %	< 95 %
Glass	≥ 80 %	< 80 %
Packaging made of biodegradable materials	≥ 80 %	< 80 %

¹⁾ All papers **coated on both sides** are classified as composite materials, irrespective of the mass ratio. **Papers coated/impregnated on one or both sides with paraffin or wax** are always classified as composite materials.

²⁾ The following applies if you place packaging on the market that consists of paper, cardboard, paperboard and corrugated board plus another packaging material, but meets the definition of single-material packaging provided above: You are obligated to inform end consumers about which bin to use by **labelling the packaging** (e. g. 'Clean and fold, waste paper'). The labelling requirement does not apply to very small packaging on which the label would be too small to read.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.