



French Committee for Assessing the
Recyclability of Paper and Cardboard Packaging

Guide on assessing the recyclability of paper and cardboard household packaging

Improving recycling through eco-design

Editorial

Providing you with the latest news and practical tips to help you improve the recyclability of your packaging in the right way!

That is our goal at CEREC (French Committee for Assessing the Recyclability of Paper and Cardboard Packaging), to help you specify and design eco-friendly paper and cardboard household packaging to improve its recyclability and thereby safeguard the sustainability of the recycling stream. This technical committee was set up by Citeo and Revipac in 2007.

We need to meet the challenges of tomorrow by developing paper and cardboard packaging that is ever more resistant, protective and recyclable. To do this, CEREC provides general resources as well as more detailed guidance, all of which you can discover by browsing through this guide.



About CEREC

CEREC (French Committee for Assessing Recyclability of Paper and Cardboard Packaging) is an expert technical committee set up by Citeo and Revipac in 2007 for paper and cardboard household packaging. CEREC wishes to help manufacturers, brand owners and distributors assess their technical options with packaging recyclability in mind. It can also offer advice on eco-design and packaging optimisation if necessary.

CEREC in a nutshell:

- Regular monitoring committee meetings held by Citeo and Revipac representatives to study, share information and analyse recyclability requests with our experts.
- Guaranteeing that the French paper and cardboard packaging industry has a voice.
- Over 15 years of expertise.



The founders of REVIPAC – ACN (French Beverage Carton Alliance), CAP (French Federation of Cardboard and Stationary Industries), COF (French Federation of Corrugated Cardboard Manufacturers), COPACEL (French Union of Cardboard, Paper and Cellulose Industries) and ELIPSO (French Trade Association for Flexible Plastic Packaging Manufacturers) – have all committed themselves to taking back their sorted packaging from

household waste collected kerbside by local authorities having signed a contract with an approved body (Citeo or Adelphe), to recycle it according to pre-agreed technical and financial conditions. REVIPAC provides information on the conditions for recovering and recycling such packaging and is developing the resources required to improve take-back. The paper and cardboard packaging stream brings together the various stakeholders from the following stages:

- paper and cardboard manufacturing,
- transformation of paper and cardboard into all kinds of packaging (folding boxes, corrugated cardboard boxes, paper bags, etc.),
- recycling of recovered paper and cardboard packaging.



Together, let's give
our products a new life.

Citeo is a mission-led business set up by companies in the fast-moving consumer goods and retail sectors to reduce the environmental impact of their packaging and paper waste by proposing solutions for waste reduction, reuse, sorting and recycling. To tackle the environmental crisis and speed up the changes that are vitally needed, Citeo seeks to encourage and support economic stakeholders in developing production, retail and consumer practices that protect our planet, its resources, biodiversity and the climate. **Citeo.com**



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01

Paper-based packaging: from production to end of life



Defining paper and cardboard household packaging

What is this packaging?

Paper and cardboard household packaging is a type of packaging which makes its way into the hands of consumers, who then discard it.

This **primary, secondary or tertiary packaging** is supposed to be recycled via the paper and cardboard packaging stream once it has been collected and sorted by local authorities and sorting centres.

What is household packaging?

All household packaging in France subject to the household packaging EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) scheme. As such, the brand owner or distributor has to declare their packaging to an approved eco-organisation and pay a contribution for the tonnages placed on the market to help finance packaging end of life.

According to article R. 543-55 of the French Environmental Code, household packaging is any packaging:

- from a product sold or given free-of-charge to a household (see next question);
- that is placed on the market so that the product it contains can be used or consumed by a household;

Household packaging becomes waste if the household discards it or intends to discard it, regardless of where it is discarded.

Remember that all packaging – including inserts and outer packaging – destined for households must be declared regardless of:

- what it is made of (e.g. cardboard, plastic, porcelain, wood, etc.);
- its reusability;
- whether it is for sale or free-of-charge (e.g. samples, advertising gifts, donations);
- whether it is primary, secondary or tertiary packaging;
- how it is collected (household waste, selective sorting, etc.);
- its biodegradability.

What is a household?

A household refers to any person who privately consumes or uses a packaged product (food, leisure goods, etc.) they have bought or received as a gift from a company.

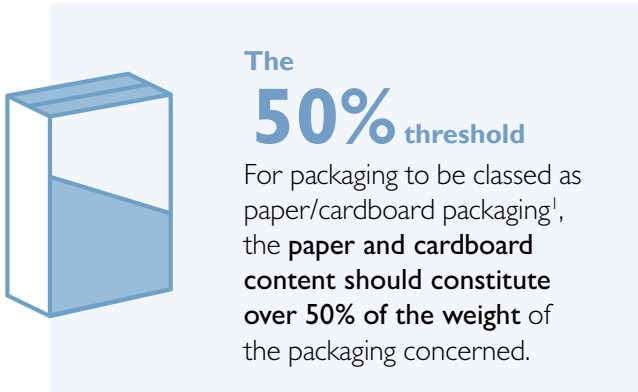
The term household does not include the following:

- people who consume or use a packaged product for professional purposes;
- people who may have bought or been given a packaged product for a given price because they belong to a certain group of individuals (students, employees, patients, prisoners, professionals, etc.) and consume or use the product as a member of that group.

In any case, the situation in which the person consumes or uses the packaged product takes precedence over the situation in which they bought or received the packaged product.



Is your packaging classed as paper/cardboard packaging or not?



$$\begin{matrix} \% \\ \text{of paper and} \\ \text{cardboard} \end{matrix} = \frac{\begin{matrix} \text{Mass of paper and cardboard in the} \\ \text{packaging}^1 \\ \text{(main and associated elements)}^* \end{matrix}}{\begin{matrix} \text{Total mass of the packaging (main} \\ \text{and associated elements)}^* \end{matrix}}$$

To calculate the proportion of paper and cardboard contained in your packaging, you need to use the total weight of the packaging concerned as the denominator, in keeping with the method for assessing recyclability found on [CEREC's website](#) or in [Citeo's Packaging Customer space](#) alongside the TREE tool, or you can also request it by sending an email to: prevention@citeo.com

¹ **Packaging:** in keeping with the method for assessing recyclability, packaging includes the main element and all the associated elements* that cannot be separated from it, such as flip tops, sealed lids, labels, etc.

* associated elements that do not separate easily from the main element. As part of the extension of sorting instructions, people are now also encouraged to separate certain packaging elements from each other. In exceptional cases, CEREC reserves the right to include certain packaging, for which an associated element may lead the paper and cardboard content to be under the 50% threshold, in the paper and board stream.

Please note: paper and cardboard household packaging are not systematically recyclable in the paper and cardboard stream.

PAPER/CARDBOARD AS A MATERIAL

Paper and cardboard are composed of cellulose fibres and associated mineral fillers¹.

If the paper and cardboard also contain synthetic fibres², they can still be considered as paper/cardboard material under the following joint conditions:

- If the proportion of natural fibres contained in the paper and cardboard remains greater than or equal to 50% in weight.
- AND
- If the other fibres behave similarly to the natural fibres during the recycling process.

However, if the synthetic fibres disrupt the subsequent paper and cardboard manufacturing and transformation process, or do not meet the requirements for food-contact packaging, the initial packaging containing these synthetic fibres will not be considered as recyclable in the paper and cardboard stream.

If these synthetic fibres are eliminated during the recycling process, they will not be considered as being an integral part of paper/cardboard as a material. In that case, the mass of material to be taken into account to class the paper and cardboard packaging as paper/cardboard material, is only the combined mass of the natural fibres and fillers it contains.

¹ Fillers added to the surface of the material are not counted as part of the material. By default, we can consider that mineral fillers will be processed and recycled with the natural fibres, and will be added to the numerator when calculating the recyclability rate, unless the fillers are recognised as being part of the rejected materials.

² Any other fibre than natural cellulose fibres, e.g. regenerated cellulose fibres, plastic fibres, etc.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS CONSTITUANTS OF PAPER/CARDBOARD MATERIAL:

- **Substances or materials applied to the surface**, such as coatings (including mineral-based), inks*, varnishes and lamination.
- **Synthetic fibres** (including regenerated cellulose). If they do not behave similarly to natural fibres, they will not be included in the weight of the paper and cardboard.
- **Other elements contained in the paper and cardboard** (such as non-defibrated plant matter).
- **Adhesives or glues applied to the surface of the paper/cardboard material.**

* Inks are included when calculating the theoretical recyclability rate of the paper/cardboard packaging, but are not a constituent of paper and cardboard, unlike mineral fillers. Inks are therefore not included in the weight of the paper and cardboard used as a numerator to identify the main packaging material.

Here are the questions you need to answer to identify which packaging is covered by the information in this guide:

1. Is your packaging household packaging?

Yes, if it concerns a product used or consumed by a household at home or elsewhere.



2. Is your packaging paper and cardboard packaging?

Yes, if paper and cardboard represent at least 50% of its weight. Please remember that this threshold does not mean that the packaging is systematically recyclable in the paper and cardboard stream.

If paper and cardboard represent less than 50% of the weight of the packaging, it cannot be included in the paper and cardboard stream or assessed by CEREC, because it is regarded as non-recyclable in the stream.

However, you may be able to integrate the packaging into another stream corresponding to the main material used to make it. Its recyclability can then be assessed according to the criteria set out by the committee for the relevant recycling stream (COTREP for plastic resins, COTREM and ALUTREC for metal packaging).



The categories of paper and cardboard household packaging. There are two main categories:

- Packaging composed of laminated paper and cardboard (polymeric treatments, coatings, and laminations...)



For packaging where paper and cardboard make up 50% of its weight and at least one of its paper/cardboard sides is completely covered with another material*:

which is closely bound or glued in such a way that the packaging has to be recycled using a specific process,

OR

the proportion of which is over 15% of the weight of the paper/ cardboard material carrying it.

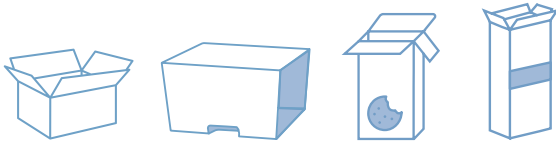
* includes coatings and varnishes applied to surfaces.

For example: a box with a PE coating whose paper and cardboard content is greater than 50% and whose plastic content is greater than 15% belongs to the laminated paper and cardboard packaging category. Such packaging is channelled towards the laminated paper and cardboard recycling category.

Food or beverage cartons belong to the laminated paper and cardboard packaging category.

Food or beverage carton: rigid and multilayer packaging mostly composed of paper/cardboard, with an opening for pouring liquid or solids (powder, granules).

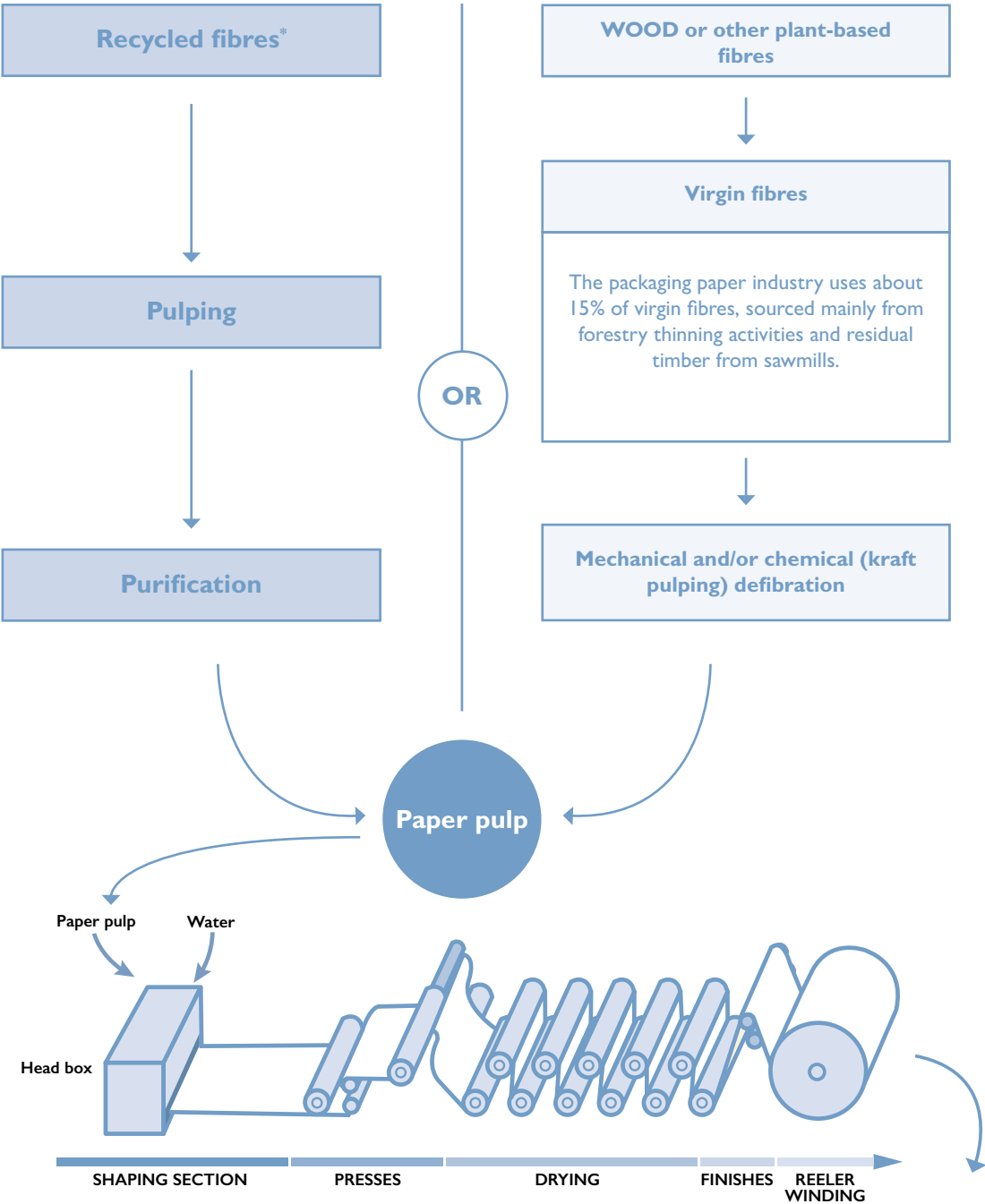
- Packaging composed of non-laminated paper and cardboard packaging



Paper/cardboard packaging which does not fall into the laminated paper and cardboard category and whose paper and cardboard content is greater than 50% belongs to the non-laminated paper and cardboard category.

For example: a cardboard box with a plastic window and no additional coatings or layers will need to comply with the 50% minimum paper and cardboard threshold but not the 15% criterion.

Simple diagram of the paper/cardboard manufacturing process



*on average, recycled fibres represent the 85% of the fibres used to make paper and cardboard packaging.

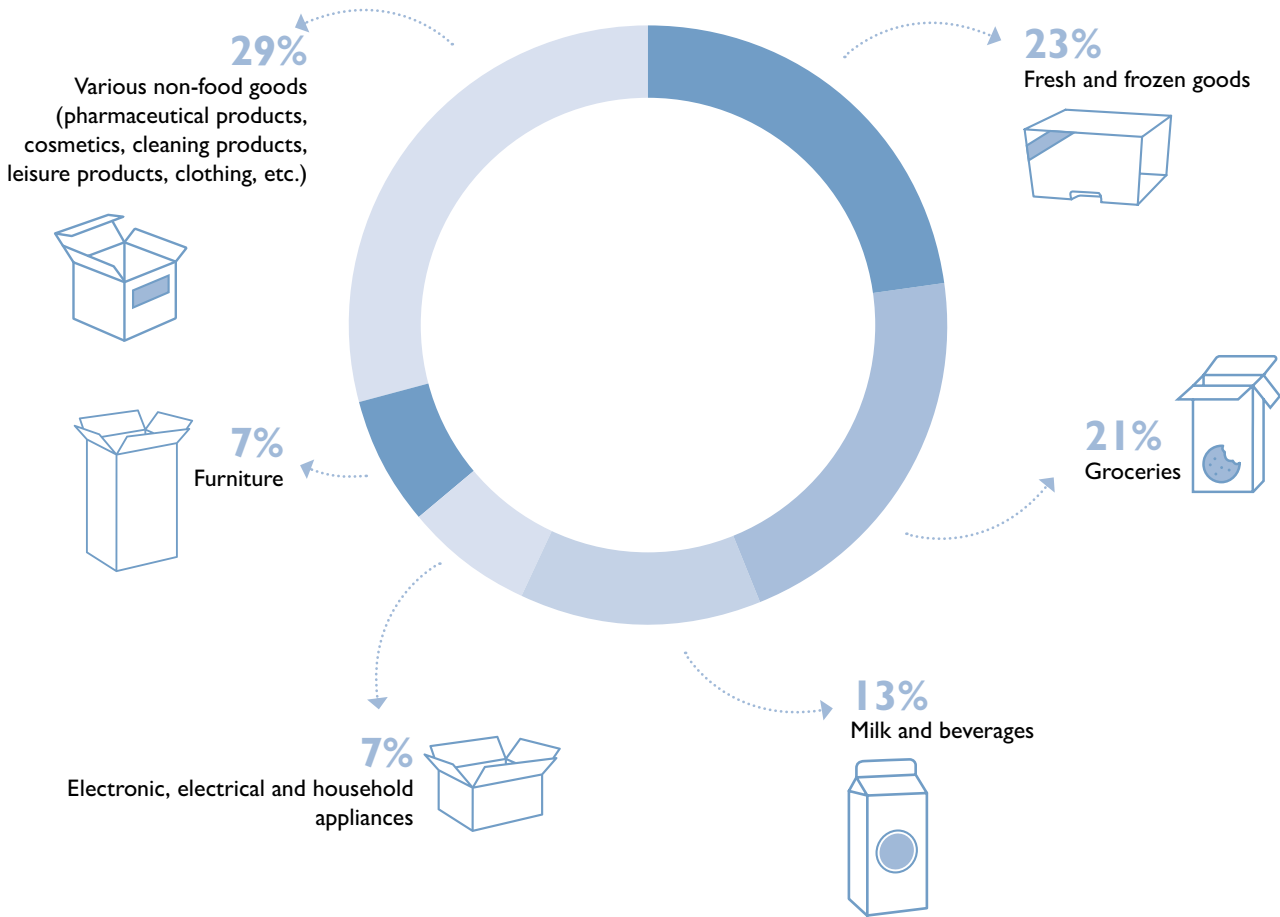
Delivery of virgin or recycled paper in reels or sheets

The paper and cardboard household packaging market

Tonnage

In 2019, 1.128¹ million tonnes of paper and cardboard household packaging were placed on the market, i.e. 21% of household packaging (flexible laminated and non-laminated paper packaging, laminated and non-laminated cardboard packaging, including food and beverage cartons, corrugated cardboard packaging, press-formed cellulose and so on).

Distribution in % of tonnes according to tonnage data (source: Citeo)



1: taken from Citeo's 2019 Annual Report

Recycling rate

70%

Recycling rate for paper and cardboard household packaging in France in 2019, including:



70%
packaging other than cartons

(concerns about 94% of tonnage for paper and cardboard)



57%
food or beverage cartons

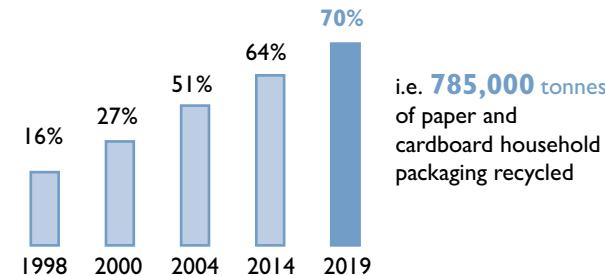
(approximately 6% of the tonnage of paper and cardboard household packaging)



Paper and cardboard household packaging first began to be recycled in France when Citeo was set up in 1992.

How are recycling rates calculated?

Change in recycling rate



Formula for calculating the recycling rate for household packaging in France

Tonnage of laminated and non-laminated paper and cardboard from selective collection in France and qualifying for the recycling process



Tonnage of paper and cardboard household packaging placed on the market in France

The calculation rules are not the same throughout Europe. The European Commission is currently working on finding standard rules that can be used by all Member States, and in France, the ADEME is adapting the European Regulations to the French context.

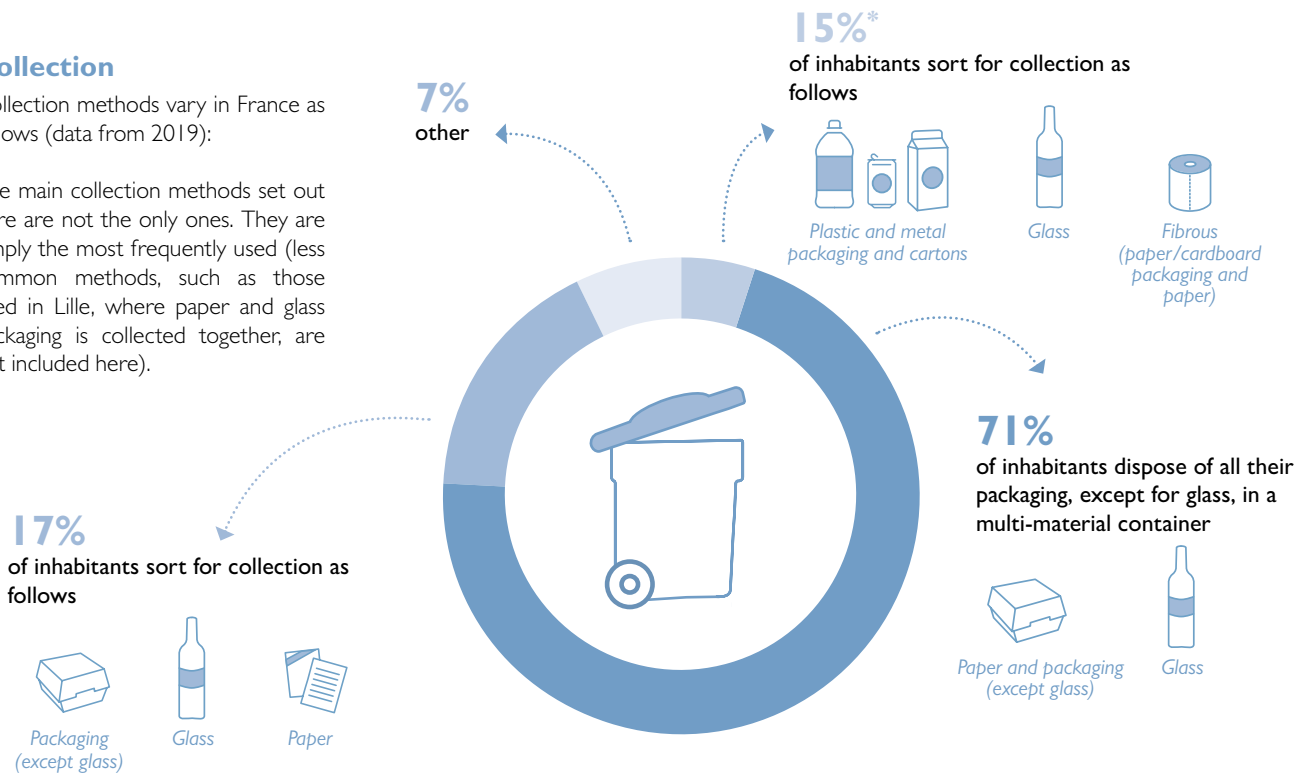
Managing used paper and cardboard household packaging

Recyclability is the possibility of reusing packaging materials via a process called recycling. Collection, sorting and recycling are all part and parcel of recyclability. Packaging is only recyclable if it can be collected, sorted and channelled towards an existing recycling stream (like paper and cardboard packaging), and if it can be integrated into the recycling stream without causing any major disruptions. The disruption criteria are set out by CEREC and can be found later on in this guide.

Collection

Collection methods vary in France as follows (data from 2019):

The main collection methods set out here are not the only ones. They are simply the most frequently used (less common methods, such as those used in Lille, where paper and glass packaging is collected together, are not included here).



*These percentages can be broken down into two types because of cartons (collected either with plastic and metal packaging, or with paper and cardboard)

Sorting process

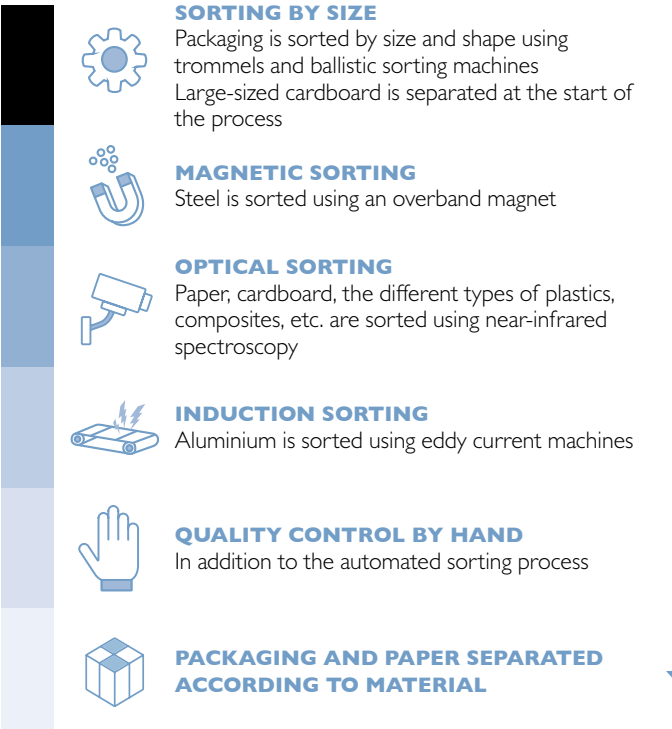
Processes at sorting centres

The diagram below presents the main processing stages at sorting centres. It is worth noting that not all the 163² sorting centres in France are the same size, have the same level of automation or use the same equipment, which can explain the various approaches of different sorting centres to the same type of packaging.

The packaging is channelled according to type into time-tested streams – steel, aluminium, plastic resins and paper/cardboard – or sent to the rejects bin. Glass is always processed separately.



PROCESSES AT SORTING CENTRES PROCESSING OPERATIONS AT MOST FRENCH SORTING CENTRES



For paper and cardboard packaging, the grades are laminated paper and cardboard, non-laminated paper and cardboard and mixed grades

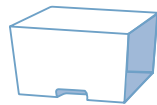
How do we ensure packaging is easy to sort?

At the sorting centre, packaging is sorted based on the following criteria, with checks carried out by personnel at the end of the process:

- Size and shape (hollow/flat) using mechanical sorting methods
- Material using optical sorting methods

- Reducing the amount of other materials increases the likelihood of paper and cardboard being identified as paper/cardboard.
- Regarding hollow containers, it is better to add barriers to the inside of the packaging to increase the chances of it being correctly identified by the optical sensors.

2: data taken from Citeo's 2020 Annual Report



Material grades:

Material grades are characterised by:

- a minimum required amount of the material concerned
- a maximum authorised amount of unwanted materials
- a maximum moisture threshold if appropriate

They provide the basis for quality requirements to ensure materials are compatible with the needs of the recycling industry, by limiting the amount of unwanted materials that are incompatible with recycling.

Material grades are important for their technical aspect (they influence the quality and conditioning of streams) and contractual reach as they have to be taken on board by all sorting and recycling stakeholders in France, and lead to guarantees and financial commitments.

Ever since selective sorting was introduced, the public authorities have been responsible for defining the thresholds for these grades, by material, in the specifications for eco-organisations approved as part of ERP (extended producer responsibility). The grades are included in the **Contrat Action Performance 2022** (contract for improving performance) signed between Citeo or Adelphe and the local authorities, as well as in the buy-up contracts signed between local authorities and buy-up stakeholders.

To ensure that materials leaving the sorting centre are bought up by recyclers, **the main outgoing streams, packed into bales, will have been identified and graded according to standard EN 643 for paper and board**. This classification system is referred to by CEREC in its notices, which grade the assessed packaging in sorting centres.

According to the approval specifications for the Packaging EPR scheme (references: PTM REVIPAC / EN643):

- **Non-laminated paper and cardboard from separate waste collection and/or collection at waste centres *Category 1 (1 or 2 streams - 5.02A and 1.05A / 5.02 and 1.05)**

Household packaging waste composed of non-laminated paper and cardboard compressed into bales, with a maximum moisture content of 12%, and sorted into two streams, where applicable, the first containing a minimum non-laminated paper/cardboard packaging content of 95%, and the second containing a minimum corrugated cardboard content of 95%;

- **Laminated paper and cardboard from separate waste collection (Category 2 (5.03A) / 5.03)**

Household packaging waste composed of laminated paper and cardboard, compressed into bales, with a minimum laminated paper/ cardboard household packaging content of 95% and a maximum moisture content of 12%.

In contrast with the 5.03 grade, the laminated paper or cardboard category (5.03A) is not limited to food and beverage cartons.

Every year, Citeo teams carry out checks based on material grades that meet the requirements of recyclers. [Here](#) are the results for 2020, gathered by our watchdog.

Reminder of the characteristics of laminated paper and cardboard household packaging:

Packaging³ where paper and cardboard make up 50% of its weight and **at least one of its paper/cardboard sides is completely covered with another material:** which is **closely bound or glued in such a way that the packaging** has to be recycled using a specific process, OR

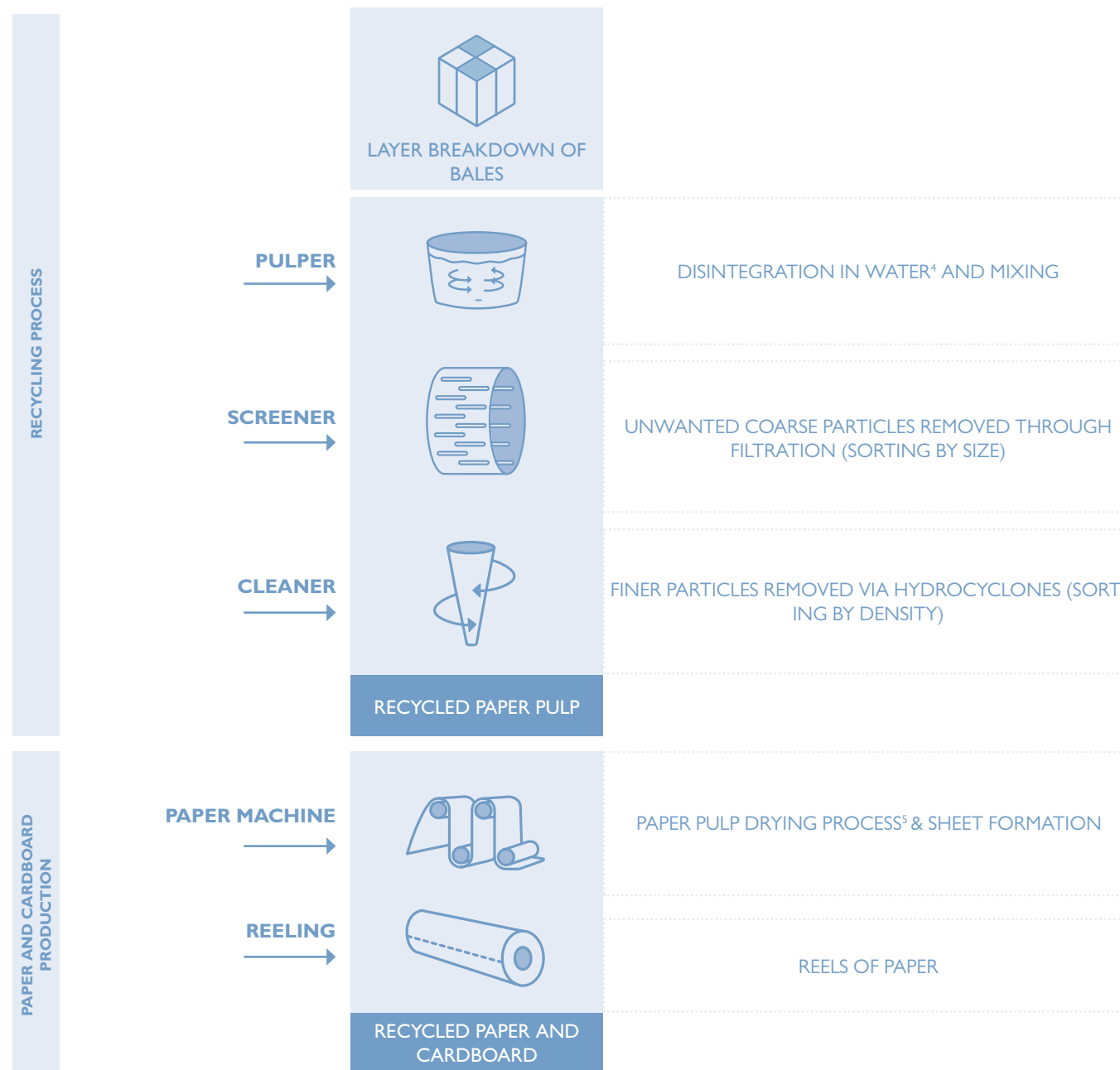
The proportion of which is over 15% of the weight of the paper/cardboard material carrying it. (see p.10 for more details)



3: The entire packaging should be taken into account, in accordance with Citeo's recyclability method available in Citeo's packaging customer space clients.emballages.citeo.com alongside the TREE tool, or which can be requested by sending an email to: prevention@citeo.com

Recycling

THE PAPER AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING PROCESS







4: Sometimes a dry defibrating process is used: friction-based defibration of newspapers/magazines and packaging to be used for building insulation.

5: The pulp drying and shaping stages may include additives or other treatments (e.g. coating). Except for press-formed cellulose.

The main outlets

The main grade-dependent outlets for the recycled material are:

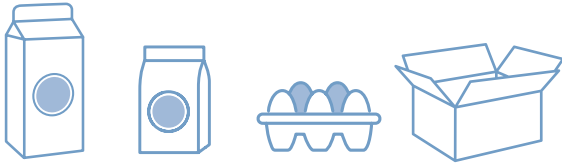
→ For non-laminated paper and cardboard, the recycled material is made into:

-  Paper for corrugated cardboard mostly
-  Flat cardboard and cardboard spools: e.g. single or triple layer
-  Moulded cellulose
-  Flexible packaging paper

→ For laminated paper and cardboard:

This stream consists mostly of food and beverage cartons, easily identified in sorting centres.

The outgoing fibres produced are channelled towards the following markets: hygiene products, paper for corrugated cardboard and flat cardboard.



What happens to materials rejected at recycling?

In view of the processes involved in paper and cardboard recycling, all the other rejected elements are incinerated (in which case they serve to heat the paper mill sites) or landfilled. The materials rejected at recycling cannot be re-sorted to be channelled towards another material cycle.

Regarding the multilayer paper and cardboard stream, given that cartons are often composed of a mix of paper, aluminium and PE, methods of processing waste from recycling are being developed by the stream to produce PolyAl, a polyethylene and aluminium composite.



A collection of eco-friendly packaging materials including brown paper bags, a white paper plate, a white paper cup, and a brown paper cup, all arranged on a light gray surface. The background is a blurred gray wall.

02

Eco-design

CEREC

French Committee for Assessing the Recyclability of Paper and Cardboard Packaging



CEREC helps you assess the recyclability of paper and cardboard household packaging, and its website also provides access to notices that have already been issued to compare your packaging with cases that have already been processed by CEREC.

Since its birth, in 2007, CEREC has published over 200 product-specific notices to build up a library of resources for future development projects.

You can view these notices on CEREC's website <https://www.cerrec-emballages.fr/en>



Reminder of the 3R

Before providing more details on the various tools available, it is important to remember all the options open to us for limiting the use of natural resources:



How CEREC operates

CEREC publishes general and **product-specific notices** on its website. To issue its notices, CEREC draws on the method for assessing recyclability, its technical expertise and Revipac's appointed experts. The experts are representatives from the end recycler and recycled paper and cardboard manufacturing sectors, who bolster the sector's buy-back commitments.

Applying for a product-specific notice

Submissions for a product-specific notice need to include a signed copy of the General Terms and Conditions of Assessment as well as a complete application file as set out in the Terms and Conditions:

- Completed technical file
- Samples
- Photos (making it easy to distinguish all the packaging elements to be presented to the consumer, i.e. the CSU – Consumer Sales Unit)
- Any other available technical and additional recyclability test reports

The details of the procedure are provided on the CEREC website (Applying for a notice) > <https://www.cerrec-emballages.fr/en>



Once a completed application file has been received, CEREC assesses the packaging submitted. It then issues a recyclability notice based on the contents of the file and any of the sector's known technical and economic constraints. The conclusions drawn may change to reflect developments in collection, sorting and recycling technologies in France.

The notice is jointly issued by Citeo and the paper and cardboard packaging stream.

How can you check if your paper and cardboard packaging is recyclable? How can you improve its recyclability in the corresponding stream?



What to do

Packaging composed of paper and cardboard is not systematically recyclable in the corresponding stream. This is what you need to do to get an idea of the recyclability of your packaging:

- 1. Establish the characteristics of the packaging to be assessed** using the method for assessing recyclability (see p. 24)
- 2. Check for any elements in the packaging which may disrupt** the paper and cardboard recycling process These elements are listed in **the recyclability matrix** (see p. 25)
- 3. Check for any elements which may impact the outlets for the stream:**

- Mineral oils have been prohibited since 2022 for that reason.

- It is important to check whether the packaging contains synthetic fibres, for example.

Packaging composed of paper and cardboard but which also contains other fibres is not considered to be recyclable in the paper and cardboard packaging stream.

In other words, if such fibres behave similarly to natural fibres during recycling, other specific things need to be checked. For the packaging to be regarded as recyclable, synthetic fibres should not disrupt the paper and cardboard manufacturing process, or the process of transforming the paper and cardboard into packaging, and should comply with the requirements enabling them to be used in food-contact packaging.

E.g.: Compliance with Directive 2007/42 EC relating to regenerated cellulose, or Regulation (EU) No. 10/2011 on plastics.

- 4. In addition to the general information made available, some packaging may require further investigation. In that case, the rejected material rate for the packaging must not exceed 50%. The rate is calculated according to the CEREC test protocol described below.**



Test protocols

For some product-specific notices issued by CEREC, additional laboratory tests may need to be carried out at CEREC's request, to check certain recyclability criteria. For example, some criteria such as repulping time or the solid dry waste rate can be tested in addition to the information provided.

As a result, a test protocol has been drawn up with specialised laboratories to simulate French and European industrial recycling conditions, including the steps described below:



Sizing the element to be tested, in keeping with the sizing scale of the test pulper, (and ensuring the density is representative of the densities at industrial facilities).



Pulping or wet disintegration (standard ISO 5263-1*): from 15 to 45 minutes at 40°C: the pulping operation involves separating the cellulose fibres so that the fibre mixture can be pumped at the screening stage.



Screening and elimination of unwanted non-fibrous materials (standard TAPPI-ANSI T275 sp-18): once the pulp has been screened, the rejected material rates are calculated for each stage.



Hydrocycloning: this step only takes place if the laboratory deems it necessary to eliminate unwanted particles based on density.



Handsheet formed after the pulping (if possible) and screening stages for quality purposes: laboratory sheets (also called handsheets) are produced using the Rapid-Köthen method. (Standard ISO 5269-2: 2004 Pulp – Preparation of laboratory sheets).

The reports produced by the laboratories appointed by Citeo belong to CEREC and are only disclosed to CEREC members. They provide CEREC with information in addition to that provided by the Applicant, helping them issue the required notice.

The method for assessing recyclability

The method

In response to the question: "Is this household packaging marketed in France recyclable?", we recommend following the steps set out below:



Identifying and classifying disruptive elements

A recyclability matrix for paper and cardboard packaging has been drawn up based on CEREC expertise. The recyclability assessment process for a household packaging item in France also includes checking whether the packaging materials, additives, colourants, adhesives, inks and other constituents disrupt the recycling process.

These constituents are classified into one of **three categories** according to their impact on recyclability within the material stream concerned:

-  **Green Category:** this includes packaging materials, additives, colourants, glues, inks and other constituents that do not currently cause problems during recycling stages.
-  **Orange Category:** this includes packaging materials, additives, colourants, adhesives, inks and other constituents that do not prevent the recycling of packaging items, but seriously affect recycling (impact on recycled material quality, recycling yield, etc.).
-  **Red Category:** this includes packaging materials, additives, colourants, adhesives, inks and other constituents that compromise the overall recyclability of packaging items. If any of these elements are included in the composition of a packaging item, it is currently considered non-recyclable in France.

This matrix is likely to change in tandem with technical and economic developments in the stream, and more detailed information may be added subsequently.

The maximum rejected material rate allowed: this criterion serves to ensure that the paper and cardboard yield is sufficient for recyclers. A recyclability test using the CEREC method should be carried out on packaging with a paper and cardboard content near the 50% mark **to ensure that the rejected material rate is lower than 50% during packaging recycling. Otherwise, the packaging cannot be accepted as recyclable according to CEREC standards.**

This criterion can also be assessed via a laboratory test. The test protocol is described on page 23.

You can view the matrix on CEREC's website <https://www.cerec-emballages.fr/en>



Quick focus on...



Inks

Which inks should you use to optimise paper and cardboard recycling?

Tip no. 1: avoid mineral oil based inks to prevent the packaging recycling loop from being contaminated by these substances. Use mineral-oil-free, low-migration inks. Inks containing mineral oils have been banned from all packaging since 1st January 2022.

Tip no. 2: optimise the quantity of ink you use ([see the Eco-Inking Guide](#))



Varnishes

Which varnishes should you use to optimise paper and cardboard recycling?

We do not have access to any specific studies on varnishes as they are not generally regarded as being disruptive to paper and board packaging recycling, which is not the case for graphic papers.



Adhesives

Which adhesives (or glues) should you use to optimise paper and board recycling? In order or priority:

1. Use so-called “level 1” adhesives that are screenable and non-fragmentable (e.g. hot-melt non-PSA adhesives) “Screenable” adhesives are fully compatible with the recycling process. They break down into coarse particles and are then removed by the screens.

2. Water-dispersible adhesives These adhesives wash off in water – they are water soluble. They can sometimes go on to form small stickies once washed off, but this is kept in check by special processes that can be set up at recycling facilities. Stickies can be dealt with *via* the water circuit in most recycling set-ups.

Avoid: Adhesives that are fragmentable and non-soluble in water (e.g. most PSAs). Adhesives which are only partially “screenable” or partially “water dispersible” should be avoided. That includes most pressure-sensitive adhesives (PSAs). They are tacky and introduce particles called “stickies” into the process, which result in quality defects in the recycled paper, as well as additional machine maintenance and water treatment costs. Lastly, we recommend you check with your adhesive supplier that the adhesives you use do not contain any mineral oils. The above advice also applies to label adhesives: see the [Adhesive Label Guide](#).



General Notices

A general notice is one that is issued for a group of paper and board packaging items or packaging components, following the assessment of a technical aspect concerning them all: inks, adhesives, closure systems, labels, etc. The notices can be viewed online directly on CEREC's website. The database made up of general and technical notices published on CEREC's website is available to packaging manufacturers and their customers to help them make the right decisions for their new projects.

All the general and product-specific notices can be viewed on CEREC's website <https://www.cerec-emballages.fr/en>



Communication & Sorting Info

Terms and conditions for CEREC notices The results only relate to the elements provided for the assessment. This notice can only be reproduced in whole.

CEREC does not propose any form of packaging communication providing information on the notice issued by CEREC. However, the brand owner or distributor can refer to the recyclability of their packaging following a notice issued by CEREC, in line with regulatory requirements.

“On-pack” communication According to the regulations in force (Article 17 of the AGEC Law and Decree no. 2021-835 of 29 June 2021), since 1 January 2022, a sorting label (Triman) and information on sorting rules (Sorting Info) have to be added to all packaging. CEREC therefore recommends adding Sorting Info to all packaging to be placed on the French market. (<https://www.citeo.com/info-tri/>)

For any other questions, you can contact: Citeo, if you are a brand owner, distributor or packer clients.emballages@citeo.com

Revipac, if you are a packaging manufacturer revipac@revipac.fr



Other resources available



This Online Eco-Design Facilitator starts you off with a check-list to assess your packaging in terms of key eco-design steps and provides you with a personalised action plan.
Accessible to all at feel.citeo.com (only available in French)



First R of the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle trio, the elimination and optimisation of packaging are the most obvious steps to be taken. Find everything you need to help you do this in a step-by-step method. The LESS method helps you review the functions of your packaging step by step, regardless of the packaging material, and draw up a packaging reduction plan which actually reduces environmental impacts rather than shifting them elsewhere.
Available in your Citeo packaging customer space, under the Tools and Services tab: clients-emballages.citeo.com, or by sending an email to prevention@citeo.com



Get an accurate assessment of your packaging items' recyclability. It provides a simple means of identifying which ones require priority action.
Available in your Citeo packaging customer space, under the Tools and Services tab: clients-emballages.citeo.com, or by sending an email to prevention@citeo.com



Assess the environmental impact of your packaging, compare various potential approaches and use the tool's recommendations to improve them.
Free and accessible to all at bee.citeo.com

Useful guides:

Eco-inking guide



Adhesive label guide



Available in your Citeo packaging customer space, under the Tools and Services tab: clients-emballages.citeo.com or can be requested by sending an email to prevention@citeo.com



Citeo's circular campus

A specially-designed e-learning platform for Citeo customers to learn about eco-design, drawing up an action plan and managing an eco-design project with an approach tailored to their packaging.
Campuscirculaire.citeo.com (only available in French)

For any other questions, you can contact:
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Revipac, if you are a packaging manufacturer
revipac@revipac.fr



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French Committee for Assessing the
Recyclability of Paper and Cardboard Packaging

www.cerrec-emballages.fr/en