

PREP EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Collecting Packaging Specifications

PREP Evaluation Questions

The below table provides a summarised example for Members to assist with collecting the packaging specifications required to complete a PREP Recyclability Evaluation.

#	Project	Separable item	Primary material (PM)	Total Weight (g)	Length / Width / Depth (mm)	Secondary material (SM)	SM bonding type	% surface area of PM taken up by SM	% weight of SM	Data source / evidence
1	<i>(Example Only) Juice bottle</i>	<i>Bottle</i>	<i>PET</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>130 / 65 / 50</i>	<i>Paper</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Internal designs, bill of materials</i>
		<i>Cap</i>	<i>LDPE</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>40 / 30 / 30</i>					<i>Internal designs attached</i>
		<i>Combined</i>	<i>PET</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>155 / 65 / 50</i>	<i>LDPE</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Internal designs attached</i>

Other areas to note:

Any hazardous contents, colour of material, presence of Carbon Black, inks, bonding types, dimensions when crushed.

For a Microsoft Word copy of the above table, please contact [APCO](#).

Item Material Detail

In addition to the table on page 2, PREP will ask specific questions relating to the *Item's* primary material. These questions are vital in assessing the behaviour of the item through the recycling process. Use the below to inform the collection of packaging specifications prior to completing a PREP Recyclability Evaluation.

Primary Material

(select from the list and answer subsequent questions on that material)

➤ Glass

- Type:
 - Glass
 - Other Glass (Pyrex, window, non-packaging)
- Tint – *Does the glass have a dark tint? (Y/N)*
- Colour – *What colour is the glass? (Clear, Green, Brown, Blue, Other)*

➤ Paper

- Type:
 - Paper
 - Cardboard
 - Wet Strength paper
 - Waxed Paper
 - Gable Top Carton (Polycoated)
 - Paper Beverage Cup
 - Liquid Paper Board – Aseptic (foil lined)

➤ Metal

- Type
 - Aluminium (foil)
 - Aluminium (rigid)
 - Steel

➤ Plastic

• Type:

- PET (1) natural
- PET (1) coloured, transparent
- PET (1) coloured, opaque
- Unpigmented CPET
- Pigmented CPET
- PET-G
- HDPE (2)
- PVC (3)
- LDPE (rigid)
- LDPE (soft)
- PP (5)
- PS (6)
- Expanded PS
- PLA
- Biopolymer
- Other plastic

- Rigidity - *Is the plastic rigid or soft?*
 - If rigid – *Does the plastic have a dark shade? (Y/N)*
 - If yes – *Does it include Carbon Black as a colourant? (Y/N)*

➤ Other

Dimensions

Note that paper, metal and plastic dimensions are all to be entered “when crushed”. E.g. If you were to stand on the item, what size would it be - allow up to 30 minutes before measuring it to allow for any plastic memory. Here, we are trying to simulate behaviour in a compactor truck and the time after it has been tipped on the floor of the MRF before being processed.

- Length (mm)
- Width (mm)
- Depth (mm)

Total Weight

- In grams (including the weight of any secondary materials)

Inks

- What type of inks are used – *None, water soluble ink non-water-soluble ink or UV inks and coatings.*

Optional: Secondary Materials

Does the item contain secondary materials?

- Description – *what it is?*
- Material type – *From list (as per the primary material list and common secondary materials such as barrier layer materials)*
- Bonding – *How is the secondary material bonded to the primary material? From list (none, water-soluble glue, non-water-soluble glue, laminated (double sided), laminated (single sided) threaded connection, push fit, plastic welded, shrink fit, pressure sensitive adhesive)*
- Ink type – *From list (none, water soluble ink, non-water-soluble ink or UV inks and coatings)*
- Materials % - *Percentage this material contributes to the total item weight?*
- Surface % - *Percentage of primary material’s external surface area this material occupies?*

Combined disposal

- PREP also allows Members to assess their packaging item to determine whether small plastic items that return a Not Recyclable outcome due to

their small size, are Conditionally Recyclable through Combined Disposal (i.e. a small cap able to be recycled when left attached to a bottle). In order to verify Conditional Recyclability, Users must conduct a Combined Disposal assessment.

- Once separable items have been added to the PREP project, Members will be asked to complete the above Item questions again, with the considerations that the packaging is disposed of as a single item (all items combined). Note that the primary material, dimensions and secondary material percentages may be different when disposed of as a combined item, with the previous separable component (e.g. the cap), considered a secondary material to the primary item (e.g. the bottle).

Soft plastics assessments

Conditional Recyclability through alternative destinations

Please refer to the [Alternative destinations in the ARL Program](#) document for the most up to date information regarding soft plastic collection partners. Organisations who are partners to a collection scheme are able to determine the recyclability of their soft plastics by conducting an assessment within PREP. Further detail will be required to complete these assessments in PREP – please see below.

Organisations who are not partners to an alternative destination will not be able to assess their soft plastic packaging through a PREP assessment, however the thresholds are available via the [Support > Soft Plastics](#) page of PREP to support in understanding of potential acceptance. It is encouraged that the following specifications are obtained from suppliers.

The table on the final page provides a template of questions that must be answered in order to complete a soft plastic evaluation. Please note that this is intended to be a template only and evaluations in PREP will have the soft plastic thresholds included within these assessments for partner organisations. Members are able to extract the below information to create their own internal process documents.

Primary Material

(select from the list and enter either the gauge weight (g/m²) or gauge thickness (µm) of this primary material layer)

- Type:
 - PET
 - HDPE
 - PVC
 - LDPE
 - PP
 - PS
 - Nylon
 - Bioplastic
 - BOPP

Secondary Material

(select all included secondary materials from the list and enter either the gauge weight (g/m²) or gauge thickness (µm) of each layer)

- Type:
 - PET
 - HDPE
 - PVC
 - LDPE
 - PP
 - PS
 - Nylon
 - EVOH
 - Bioplastic
 - BOPP
 - Paper
 - Aluminium

Soft Plastic Evaluation

Project Name: _____

Assessment completed by: _____ Position title: _____ Date: _____

Question	Answer
PREP Evaluation Date	<i>Date</i>
PREP Evaluation Saved	<i>File location</i>
Data source of packaging specifications	<i>e.g. material bill from supplier, internal designs</i>
Primary polymer	<i>PET, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, PS, Nylon, Bioplastic or BOPP</i>
Gauge weight (g/m ²) or gauge Thickness (µm)	
Length/ Width / Depth (mm)	
Optional: Secondary material	<i>PET, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, PS, Nylon, BOPP, Bioplastic, Paper or Aluminium</i>
Gauge weight (g/m ²) or gauge Thickness (µm)	
Length/ Width / Depth (mm)	
Percentage in comparison to the total* material <i>*(primary + any secondary materials)</i>	<i>(Secondary weight/total weight) x 100</i>
Alternative destination scheme outcome	<i>Indicated in final PREP report.</i>

Outcome: *e.g. Feedback for design to meet recyclability parameters, to apply “Check Locally” outcome packaging sold in Australia and “Conditionally Recyclable” ARL with “Return to store / Store drop off” instructions*

PREP Evaluation saved: *file location*