



CANADIAN PRODUCE  
MARKETING ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE LA  
DISTRIBUTION DE FRUITS ET LÉGUMES

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)  
Resource Document  
June 2024**



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In Canada, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for packaging and printed paper are implemented at the provincial level, meaning each province has its own specific regulation and program plans. However, the general principle of EPR remains consistent across the country. Each province in Canada has its own regulatory framework and organization responsible for overseeing EPR programs for packaging.

EPR for packaging in Canada typically involves placing responsibility on producers (which can include manufacturers, importers, and brand owners) to manage the end-of-life disposal or recycling of the packaging materials they introduce into the market. This means they may be required to:

1. Develop and implement recycling programs for the packaging materials they produce or supply to the consumer.
2. Meet specific recycling targets or quotas.
3. Provide financial contributions to support recycling infrastructure and programs.
4. Report on their packaging materials and recycling activities to regulatory authorities.

These programs aim to increase recycling rates, reduce waste, and promote sustainable packaging practices. They aim to shift the costs of recycling and waste management away from taxpayers and municipalities and towards the producers who benefit from the use of packaging materials.

Obligated packaging for most Programs (in Canada) is defined as packaging that surrounds a product and is supplied (given, donated, and sold) directly or indirectly to Canadian consumers. Most current regulations are focus on packaging that is disposed of by the consumer (household), in the residential waste/recycling system or in a public space (parks, streets, etc.). Packaging that is not currently obligated but will be the focus in the future is packaging around a product that is disposed/managed in an industrial, commercial (including retail outlets) or institutional waste stream. This would include packaging around products supplied to restaurants (for their own consumption), other food manufacturers and shipping or transportation cartons /containers.

For example, the packaging around a head of lettuce sold to a consumer is obligated, the box that the 12 heads of lettuce that was shipped into the retailer is not obligated material. Important to note that many regulations have scoped business to business (B to B) packaging at a future date.

### **Producer**

An obligated producer is a manufacturer, importer, brand owner, or other entity that is legally obligated to take responsibility for managing the end-of-life disposal, recycling, or other environmentally sound management of the packaging they introduce into the market.

### **Determining who is the Producer of an obligated product.**

Each provincial regulation is unique however they define the obligated producer generally the same, in hierarchical order,

1. Brand holder of the product, resident in a specified jurisdiction, and if the brand owner is not resident,
2. The first importer resident in the province, and if that entity does not exist,
3. The retailer.

It is important to note if the entity is a franchise system, the franchisor is considered the brand owner (with the same residency constraints).

### **Residency**

In most provincial jurisdictions, a person has residency in a particular province, if they meet ONE of the following:

1. A facility located in the province;
2. Own land in the province;
3. Inventory that you own housed in a facility (owned or rented property), that an employee or agent regularly fills orders;
4. A published address in the province; or
5. An employee situated in the province with general authority to contract.

### **Brand holder**

A brand owner is an organization or company that is the registrant of a trademark. If the brand/trademark is unregistered, then the organization or company that owns the intellectual property rights to the brand/ trademark is the “brand owner.”

If a brand owner is a resident of Canada/Province, then it is the obligated producer of the Printed Paper and Packaging (PPP) associated with its brands supplied to residential consumers, regardless of whether the products are supplied by a licensee of the brand owner, a distributor, retailer, or supplied directly by the brand owner to the residential consumer.

### **Other notables**

Private Label - A producer is defined as the brand holder of a product. As such, the owner of the private label is responsible for the product and packaging of a product that is made by a third party, regardless of who grows/produces the product.

Products without branding - if a product is grown and packages without branding it, typically the company that grew and packaged the product is the Producer.

### **Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO)**

A PRO is an organization (for profit or not for profit) that implements a collection network and manages the collection and recovery of packaging to ensure its members meet their accessibility and recovery targets as set out in the provincial regulations.

Producers have choice in terms of managing their own materials and/or joining a PRO that administers the management collectively for its producer members. PROs charge their members based on a fee per package type charged for each package supplied/sold into that province/territory. They pool the Producers fees and use them to procure collection/recycling services on behalf of their obligated producer members. PROs also support their Producer members with reporting responsibilities as well. Table 4 below provides a list of the PROs and oversight agencies (that exist) for each jurisdiction.

It is important to note that PROs support administrative and management of Producers obligations. They do not take on the regulatory responsibilities. In other words, failure to comply with the regulations still resides with the individual Producers.

Each provincial/territorial jurisdiction scopes their regulatory frameworks to define obligated parties based on their residency by scoping it within the specific province and/or federally within Canada. Regulators are trending to default using Canadian residency to enable compliance enforcement. Table 1 provides details of residency scoping for each Regulation.

Some EPR regulations create an independent organization who is responsible for monitoring compliance both in terms of registering as well as meeting performance requirements. In other cases, the Provincial Government maintains the role of oversight. In many cases both PROs and producers have to register with the regulators or authorities and provide details including the amount of packaging they supply into the market by Province/Territory. In some provinces only one single PRO exists. Table 4 outlines the registered PROs and regulatory authorities and direct links to the Regulation.

Every regulator has the ability to assess penalties and interest on Producers that fail to report or pay fees as required. In conjunction, PROs will have the ability to review a producer’s report for accuracy and completeness and through their Producer agreements may have given themselves the abilities to reassign fines or interest on missed or late payments. The Regulators are in the process of determining a Producer’s requirement for report verification.

**TABLE 1 – Producer Liability & Residency by Province/Territory**

<b>Province</b>	<b>Brand owner of the product resident in the Province/Canada</b>	<b>First importer resident in the province</b>	<b>Individual or PRO liability for recovery /accessibility targets. See Appendix B</b>
British Columbia	Province	If the brand owner is not resident in the Province/Country, then the obligation resides with the	PRO
Alberta	Canada		Individual producer
Saskatchewan	Province		PRO
Manitoba	Province		PRO
Ontario	Canada		Individual producer
Quebec	Province		PRO

New Brunswick	Canada	First Importer or Retailer that is Resident in the Province.	Individual producer
Nova Scotia	Canada		Individual producer
Prince Edward Island	no current regulation		
Newfoundland and Labrador	no current regulation		
Nunavut	No current regulation		
Northwest Territories	No current regulation		
Yukon Territories	Coming soon		

Producers are required to report separately to each provincial body as required.

Most regulations also have exemption for small business that are set as total annual sales and/or the number of tonnes of packaging sold into the province/territory. Table 2 provides details of those exemptions where Regulation exist.

**TABLE 2 - Registration and Reporting Exemptions**

Province	Packaging EPR Program	Annual Provincial Gross Sales	OR if you generate less than the following kg of obligated materials in each category	Additional Comments
British Columbia	Yes	\$1 million	1,000 kgs	
Alberta	Yes	\$1.5 million	See below	Need to report regardless each year
Saskatchewan	Yes	\$2 million	1,000 kgs	
Manitoba	Yes	\$750,000	\$250 worth of fees	
Ontario	Yes	\$2 million	See table below	
Quebec	Yes	\$1 million	1,000 kgs	
New Brunswick	Yes	\$2 million	1,000 kgs	
Nova Scotia	Implementing	\$1 million	1,000 kgs	
Prince Edward Island	No			
Newfoundland and Labrador	No			
Nunavut	No			
Northwest Territories	No			
Yukon Territories	Implementing	\$1 million	1,000 kg	

Sales are annual gross sales from all products and services provided in the province.

## Ontario

Blue Box material category	Supply-based exemption level (in kgs)
Paper	9,000
Rigid plastic	2,000
Flexible plastic	2,000
Glass	1,000
Metal	1,000
Beverage containers	1,000

**TABLE 4 - PROs and Regulators by Province**

Jurisdiction	PRO	Website	3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Oversight Agency (outside the Environment Ministry)
British Columbia	Recycle BC	<a href="https://recyclebc.ca/">https://recyclebc.ca/</a>	
Alberta	Circular Materials	<a href="https://www.circularmaterials.ca/">https://www.circularmaterials.ca/</a>	Alberta Resource Management Authority <a href="https://www.albertarecycling.ca/ppp">https://www.albertarecycling.ca/ppp</a>
Saskatchewan	MMSW	<a href="https://www.mmsk.ca/">https://www.mmsk.ca/</a>	
Manitoba	Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba	<a href="http://www.stewardshipmanitoba.org">www.stewardshipmanitoba.org</a>	
Ontario	Refer to PRO list on RPRA website.		Resource Productivity Recovery Authority <a href="https://rpra.ca/programs/blue-box/regulation/producers/">https://rpra.ca/programs/blue-box/regulation/producers/</a>
Quebec	EEQ	<a href="https://www.eeq.ca/">https://www.eeq.ca/</a>	Recyc-Quebec <a href="https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca">https://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca</a>
New Brunswick	Circular Materials	<a href="https://www.circularmaterials.ca/">https://www.circularmaterials.ca/</a>	RecycleNB <a href="https://www.recyclenb.com">https://www.recyclenb.com</a>
Nova Scotia	Circular Materials	<a href="https://www.circularmaterials.ca/">https://www.circularmaterials.ca/</a>	DivertNS <a href="https://divertns.ca">https://divertns.ca</a>
Prince Edward Island	<b>N/A</b>		
Newfoundland and Labrador	<b>N/A</b>		

Northwest Territories	N/A		
Yukon	Circular Materials	<a href="https://www.circularmaterials.ca/">https://www.circularmaterials.ca/</a>	
Nunavut	N/A		

A key and important responsibility for Producers and the PROs they engage, is registering and reporting PPP supplied into the market into the regulator and/or oversight agency. All Produce reporting is subject to their party auditing for accuracy and fairness. There are current efforts to align reporting timeframes across Canada. Table 5 below provides details of reporting dates for each Province and Territory.

**TABLE 5 - Reporting time frames**

Province	Reporting to:	Annual reporting Due Date	What to report
British Columbia	Recycle BC	May 31 every year	Quantity of packaging material supplied in the province during the previous year
Alberta	ARMA and Circular Materials	CM May 31, Arma June 30	
Saskatchewan	MMSW	May 31 every year	
Manitoba	MMSM	May 31 every year	
Ontario	RPRA and PRO of choice	May 31 every year	
Quebec	EEQ	60 days after approval of the Schedule of Contributions	
New Brunswick	Circular Materials NB	May 31 every year	
Nova Scotia	Circular Materials Atlantic & Divert NS	Sept 1 - CM, Oct 1 - DivertNS	
Prince Edward Island	N/A		
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A		
Nunavut	N/A		
Northwest Territories	N/A		
Yukon Territories	N/A		

Another key Producer obligation is meeting collection and recycling (recovery) targets. These are expressed by weight and are calculated by the amount of materials by type collected and recycled against what is supplied on an annual basis. These are set by each Province and Territory independently and as such slightly vary. Although there are seven common plastic packaging resin types, recovery targets for Plastics are set in two sub-categories; rigid and flexible. Table 6 below provides the material recovery target by Province/Territory.

**TABLE 6 – Producer Recovery Targets**

<b>Producer Recovery Targets (% of total material produced)</b>						
<b>Province</b>	<b>Materials</b>					
	<b>Paper/Fiber</b>	<b>Metal</b>	<b>Glass</b>	<b>Rigid Plastic</b>	<b>Flexible Plastics</b>	<b>Beverage Containers (all types ; aluminum, plastic, tetrapaks, pouches, gable tops)</b>
British Columbia	90	85	97	64	24	
Alberta	80	70	75	60	30	
Saskatchewan						
Manitoba						
<b>Ontario</b> (percentage for 2026 – 2029) increases 2030 & onwards	80	67	75	50	25	75
<b>Quebec</b>	See table below.					
<b>New Brunswick</b>						
<b>Nova Scotia</b> (best efforts 2026 – 2027 , targets start in 2028 – 2029 == increase 2030 on onwards)	80	70	75	60	30	
Yukon						

**Quebec Recovery Targets**

<b>Prescribed Selective Collection Rates</b>				
<b>Categories</b>	<b>Recovery (starting for 2027)</b>	<b>Reclamation (2027 – 2029)</b>	<b>Reclamation (starting from 2030)</b>	<b>Local Reclamation</b>
Cardboard	85% + 5% After five years Ultimately 90%	75%	75% + 5% every five years. Ultimately 85%	90%
Printed matter, containers, and packaging made of fibres other than cardboard	80% + 5% After five years Ultimately 85%	70%	70% + 5% every five years. Ultimately 85%	90%
Rigid HDPE plastics	80% + 5% After five years Ultimately 90%	65%	65% + 10% every five years. Ultimately 85%	90%



Rigid PET plastics	80% + 5% After five years Ultimately 90%	70%	70% + 5% every five years. Ultimately 85%	80%
Other rigid plastics	75% + 5% After five years Ultimately 85%	65%	65% + 10% every five years. Ultimately 75%	75%
Flexible plastics	50% + 5% After five years Ultimately 85%	40%	40% + 10% every five years. Ultimately 85%	50%
Glass	70% + 5% After five years Ultimately 75%	65%	65% + 10% aux five years. Ultimately 85%	70%
Metals other than aluminum	75% + 5% After five years Ultimately 90%	70%	70% + 10% aux five years. Ultimately 80%	50%
Aluminum	55% + 5% After five years Ultimately 80%	45%	45% + 10% aux five years. Ultimately 85%	50%