Valpak
by Reconomy

International Environmental Legislation –

A Retailer's Guide to Compliance

Environmental compliance legislation.

If your company places certain products on the market in the EU or other countries, you may be obligated under specific producer responsibility legislation.

In the EU...

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) means you must take responsibility for the end of-life waste management of certain products.

Three key areas of EPR that may affect your business include the Packaging Waste, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Waste Batteries Directives.

Additionally, legislation covering various waste types is in place in many EU countries. For example, the furniture tax and textiles, toys, and DIY equipment regulations in France and textiles regulations in Hungary and The Netherlands.



Countries are required to implement separate collections for textiles products by 2025 **Our consultancy team has produced an analysis of textile recycling opportunities in the UK -** TextileFlow:From Waste to Worth

In other countries...

In more than 50 countries similar legislation is either in place, or emerging, in most major markets.

In certain countries legislation extends to products such mattresses and paint.

Attention global textile producers! **Being in the loop** with existing and emerging extended producer responsibility legislation for textiles is crucial for ensuring compliance and success in international markets. **Request a non-binding quote for our** textiles EPR horizon scanning service.

Green Dot licensing

The Green Dot is a trademarked symbol licensed by different organisations worldwide. If you use this symbol on packaging in the EU or North America this will usually need to be licensed.



The Green Dot symbol shows a financial contribution has been made towards the end-of-life collection and recycling of packaging and, although it is not mandatory, is interlinked with packaging compliance in many countries.

In most other countries the symbol still requires licensing. The PRO Europe Group is the umbrella organisation responsible for overseeing all licensing bodies; however, individual licenses are still required for each market.

North America also requires the symbol to be licensed; however, Green Dot North America's licence covers Mexico, Canada, and the US together.

More than 150,000 companies are licensees of the Green Dot trademark, while over 400 billion packaging items have been labelled with the symbol.

If your company sells goods within Europe, it is essential to be knowledgeable about the symbols required for application on products and packaging. **Click here to request to purchase a copy of our summary report.**

More than **150,000 companies** are licensees of the Green Dot trademark

Is your business affected overseas?

Establishing whether your company is affected by obligations can be complex. It varies by country, methods of sale, thresholds and types of packaging materials and products.

You could be affected if you have a UK head office and export products, distance sell via online retail or mail order, have a physical presence in another country or even just plan to expand operations beyond the UK.

Obligations also vary whether you are selling to distributors and retailers, business end-users or direct to consumers.

In some countries you need to meet thresholds before you are obligated; however, in others you are obligated from the first product you place onto the market.

Other considerations include whether you print the Green Dot on your packaging, or you own the goods as they cross borders.

You need to investigate each country individually to research, understand and meet your obligations.



What you need to do.

To ensure you understand your business's obligations you will need to carry out research. You may then need to register with a scheme, collate and submit data, pay fees, and provide your customers with disposal and recycling information.

To establish your business's obligations within each country you will need to carry out research on the products it sells and the method of sale. Ideally you should do this before the business places its products on the market or they may be withdrawn if not compliant.

Once you have established any obligations, if required, you will need to register with a compliance scheme. There are usually different schemes for packaging, WEEE and batteries. You will need to collate all your sales data in the correct format and then submit this to either a compliance scheme or directly to the national authority. Again, requirements and reporting frequencies will vary.

Once you have reported you must pay compliance fees and ensure that all other obligations are met, for example, take-back requirements for WEEE

Remember - each country has varying obligations, reporting requirements and compliance cost.

How we can help.

We can eliminate the administrative and resource-intensive burden of complying with environmental legislation overseas.



In addition to free advice - including webinars, seminars, and one-to-one support sessions - we also provide a range of international compliance services to over 230 companies in over 30 countries and offer services worldwide.

Our team of over 40 dedicated account managers and technical experts have extensive knowledge on regulations and compliance in all 195 countries. They can provide accurate and up-to-date information for wherever you are commercially active including what products are obligated and thresholds for compliance, legal reporting and registration requirements, the compliance choices available, data reporting requirements and financial obligations.

If you prefer, we can manage all your international compliance obligations, allowing you to focus on other business priorities.

Our fully outsourced service includes reviewing and identifying your obligations, registering you with the appropriate parties, collating and submitting your data and monitoring emerging areas of legislation. We can also provide staff training and technical advice.

We provide a range of services to over **230 companies** in over **30w countries**.

Beyond extended producer responsibility.

Our supplementary Horizon Scanning Service.

If you wish to keep up to date with environmental legislation changes or emerging legislation or want to discover opportunities for reducing your business's environmental footprint in other countries, our team of expert consultants can provide further support via our value-added Horizon Scanning Service.

We will assist your business to remain compliant with continually changing environmental legislation and voluntary agreements both in the International Environmental Legislation - A Retailer's Guide to Compliance UK and internationally. Our expert team of researchers will work with you to find out what your business's priorities are, offering a tailored service focusing on areas of particular interest, providing quarterly updates.

Valpak's International Compliance team is made up of over 40 dedicated account managers and technical experts who can help your business meets its obligations.

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Case study.

ASOS.com is a global online fashion and beauty retailer offering branded and own label product lines.

Since 2000 the company has grown exponentially and become obligated under an increasing volume of legislation in the UK, the EU and worldwide.

Our International Compliance team helped ASOS.com identify their obligations across all markets, register with the necessary compliance schemes and offset their overseas obligations for waste compliance.

Outsourcing this burden has allowed ASOS.com to have confidence in their compliance overseas as they further expand as a global brand.

"The Valpak International Compliance Team has provided invaluable support, allowing us to grow our business globally whilst being confident that our overseas compliance requirements are being met."

ASOS.com



Case study.

Operating international stores poses a lot of challenges for retailers. This is tough enough when opening stores in the UK, but when opening a new store overseas there are many other challenges to tackle, environmental waste compliance being just one of these. With each country implementing different regulations with varying requirements, it is difficult for a retailer to identify exactly what they need to do to comply with producer responsibility legislation.

Marks & Spencer used Valpak's International Compliance Service to ensure that compliance was achieved for sales made to household end users outside of the UK. Our International Compliance Team produced detailed compliance requirements for individual countries for Marks & Spencer, who then took the decision to outsource compliance across Europe to Valpak.

This allowed them to focus on the delivery of a high-quality experience for their customers, peace of mind they were compliant and therefore meeting their Plan A commitments across all international operations.

"Valpak has a dedicated team who identify, quantify, and satisfy our obligations on a country specific basis. After we launched our operations overseas, it seemed we were throwing them a different challenge every week, which they met every time."

Marks & Spencer

For help and advice please contact us

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