2026 | Compliance calendar

Key dates and preparation timeline for UK and international producers

	Date	Area	What this means	Start preparing
Jan	1	Packaging EPR reporting (UK)	Start of the 2026 data year for packaging reporting; ensure systems and supplier templates are in place from day one. The Environment Agency also require a methodology.	**Build your data template and internal owners in Q4 2025.**
	1	CBAM (EU)	The CBAM transition period (2023–2025) has ended and the definitive period began 1 January 2026. Obligated companies must begin financial provisions for in-scope goods.	**Start mapping goods and suppliers in Q4 2025, then confirm data capture in Q1 2026.**
	31	WEEE/Portable Batteries producer data for Q4 2025.	WEEE/Portable Batteries producer data for Q4 2025. Common scheme cut-off 15 Jan. Deadline for full year B2B data.	**Keep placed on market data up to date through Q4.**
Mar	31	Automotive & Industrial Batteries (UK) producers submit 2025 full year data	Producers of industrial and automotive batteries must report the total tonnage, chemistry, and brand name of batteries placed on the market by this date	**Finalise prior year data in Q4 2025.**
	31	CBAM (EU): Authorised Declarant Status	Obligated companies that have not applied for Authorised Declarant Status will no longer be able to import into the EU; ensure that you have submitted your application as early as possible.	**Submit your application early to avoid any supply chain disruptions**

Use this as a planning aid for 2026. Requirements and dates can change, and some obligations depend on your organisation's thresholds, products and financial year end. Always confirm your specific obligations with the relevant regulator.

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Apr	1	Packaging EPR reporting (UK)	Packaging data report deadline under the new reporting regulations, covering the last six months of the previous calendar year.	**Lock down datasets in January, validate in February, then finalise submission in March.**
	30	Plastic Packaging Tax (UK)	Return and payment deadline for the accounting period ending 31 March 2026 (last working day of April).	**Close and reconcile data by mid April; keep polymer evidence and exemptions ready.**
	30	WEEE treatment and exports (UK) - AATF/AE	Quarter 1 returns deadline for Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities and Approved Exporters.	**If this applies to you, prepare quarterly records throughout Q1 and review in early April.**
	30	WEEE/Portable Batteries producer data for Q1 2026. Common scheme cut-off 15 Apr.	Many producer compliance schemes request quarter 1 placed on market data by mid April (confirm your scheme's deadline).	**Keep placed on market data up to date through Q1; avoid leaving reconciliation to April.**
Jul	31	WEEE/Portable Batteries producer data for Q2 2026.	Many producer compliance schemes request quarter 2 placed on market data by mid July (confirm your scheme's deadline).	**Maintain data quality checks monthly, then reconcile early July.**
	31	WEEE/Portable Batteries producer data for Q2 2026.	Return and payment deadline for the accounting period ending 30 June 2026 (last working day of July).	**Close and reconcile data by mid July.**
	31	WEEE treatment and exports (UK) - AATF/AE	Quarter 2 returns deadline for Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities and Approved Exporters.	**Maintain records during Q2 and review in early July.**

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Aug	12	PPWR (EU and Northern Ireland)	From 12 August, the Packaging Waste Directive is officially repealed, and the PPWR becomes legally binding and applicable in all Member States. Limits on PFAs and substances of concern become applicable, and the sorting label implementing act is to be published by this date	**Run a packaging portfolio review and gap assessment in Q1 2026, then build an action plan before summer.**
Oct	1	Packaging EPR reporting (UK) for Half Year 1 2026 data	Packaging data report deadline under the new reporting regulations, covering the last six months of the previous calendar year.	**Lock down datasets in May, validate in June, then finalise submission in July.**
	15	Batteries compliance (UK)	Deadline to join a battery compliance scheme for the next compliance year if you place more than 1 tonne of portable batteries on the UK market.	**Confirm threshold status by summer and prepare product and tonnage data in September.**
	30	WEEE/Portable Batteries producer data for Q3 2026.	Many producer compliance schemes request quarter 3 placed on market data by mid October (confirm your scheme's deadline).	**Maintain data quality checks monthly, then reconcile early October.**
	30	WEEE treatment and exports (UK) - AATF/ AE	Quarter 3 returns deadline for Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities and Approved Exporters.	**Maintain records during Q3 and review in early October.**
Nov	15	WEEE compliance (UK)	Deadline to join a WEEE producer compliance scheme for the next compliance year if you place more than 5 tonnes of EEE on the market.	**Plan renewals in Q3; provide legal entity details and contacts well ahead of mid November.**
	30	WEEE scheme registration step (UK)	Producer compliance schemes register their members for the next compliance year by 30 November, so producers should not leave onboarding late.	**Aim to complete joining steps by mid November so the scheme can register you on time.**

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Dec	30	EUDR (EU) – compliance deadline (Large & Medium companies)	Deadline for large and medium companies to comply. (Micro and small businesses have until 30 June 2027)	**Confirm whether you meet size thresholds (turnover, balance sheet, employees) and plan implementation accordingly.**
	31	ESOS Phase 4 (UK)	Qualification date for ESOS Phase 4 (who must comply is determined based on your status on this date).	**Start scoping early in 2026; collect and organise energy data steadily across the year.**

Preparation timeline by topic

Packaging EPR reporting (UK)

- Set up a single source of truth for weights and packaging formats per SKU, with clear ownership for updates.
- Build supplier data requests into BAU processes early so evidence is available for validation.
- Aim to complete internal validation 6 to 8 weeksfore your reporting

Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM)

- Start component level packaging specifications and recyclability checks well ahead of 2026 to avoid fee shocks.
- Prioritise high volume SKUs first, then work through long tail ranges with a repeatable data template.
- Use findings to create a practical packaging improvement list and align it to commercial timelines. reporting

Plastic Packaging Tax (UK)

- Maintain evidence of recycled content and exemptions as you go, not at quarter end.
- Reconcile polymer weights monthly so quarter end returns are a sign off, not a scramble.
- If you are close to thresholds, review projected volumes quarterly and document assumptions

WEEE (UK)

- Confirm whether you are above 5 tonnes of EEE and need to be in a producer compliance scheme.
- Keep placed on market data consistent across teams, especially where multiple product lines are involved.
- Plan renewals in Q3 so joining deadlines in November do not become a risk.

Batteries (UK)

- If you place more than 1 tonne of portable batteries on the UK market, plan scheme renewal for the following year by early autumn.
- Maintain robust tonnage tracking by chemistry and product type to reduce reporting friction.
- If your product mix is changing, revisit your threshold assessment early and document your approach.

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PPWR (EU and Northern Ireland)

- Run a packaging portfolio gap assessment focusing on recyclability, minimisation, labelling and data availability.
- Map who in your supply chain holds which evidence, then agree how conformity information will be shared.
- Build a phased implementation plan so packaging updates are not all left to late 2026. sfore your reporting deadline.

CBAM (EU)

- Confirm whether your imports are in scope and map commodity codes with your customs team.
- Engage suppliers early to understand what emissions data will be needed under the definitive regime.
- Submit your Authorised Declarant Application early to avoid disruptions at customs as EU member states become increasingly strict

SECR reporting (UK)

- Align energy and emissions data collection with your financial year end timetable and annual report process.
- Keep an audit trail for estimations and conversion factors so reporting is defensible if challenged.
- Start drafting disclosures early enough to secure internal sign off without delaying accounts filing. sdeadline.

Modern slavery reporting (UK)

- Collect supplier and due diligence information continuously so the annual statement is straightforward to compile.
- Align approvals to board or senior sign off timetables and publish promptly after year end. .

Optional add ons for international programmes

If you operate across multiple markets, maintain a rolling quarterly horizon scan for new EPR, labelling and data changes. International requirements vary by country and product scope, so build in time for local validation.