

BIC PPWR Fast Track Project Report 2

Project update: August 2026

Purpose and Background:

The EU regulation Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) which entered into force 11 February 2025 and will apply from the 12 August 2026 aims to ensure packaging must be recyclable, minimally wasteful, and clearly labelled. It also sets targets for recycled content for plastic packaging by 2030 and 2040. The regulation limits the use of or prohibits certain substances in packaging, including PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) used in grease-resistant paper packaging (common in food e-commerce) and certain heavy metals. Some of these restrictions apply from 2026, earlier than the main minimisation and recyclability deadlines. It sets a deadline that by 2030 all packaging is recyclable.

Project Definition and Scope

The aim of this project is to provide useful information and guidance to UK and Ireland's book industry supply chain on what the requirements will be for packaging from day one and what an organisation will need to do going forwards to comply with increasing requirements of the regulation as it gets tougher in the following years.

Summary of current position:

The Task and Finish Working Group (T&FWG) made up of volunteers from across BIC members met at the end of July. The project is being run like the EUDR one in that it is fast moving especially as PPWR goes live on the 12 August 2026. It was agreed that:

- The T&FWG would meet three times a week
- A Group 1 meeting around Technical and Declaration of Conformity certificates
- A Group 2 meeting around Labelling and EPR schemes
- The final meeting would be all the T&FWG to keep everyone informed as to progress
- These groups have been meeting on a weekly basis throughout August
- The T&FWG has been making progress understanding the regulation, but this is complicated at the role of 'PPWR Manufacturer' can change in the supply chain depending on who is do what. This has generated a lot of discussion
- The project consultant is now in the process of generating several process maps for the various scenarios for the supply of product
- It should be noted that PPWR is all about the packing and how recyclable and reuseable it is, as well the materials that make the packaging. It has several gates that it passes through with increasing requirements over the coming years
- PPWR is also linked to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes in the EU, but EPR is about who pays for the disposal of packaging materials in a country

Initial Deliverables Achieved to Date:

Next steps:



- The PPWR project is to start pulling together helpful information and process maps for the book industry supply chain.

Simon Crump, Environmental Consultant for BIC, 1st September 2026

