BIC PPWR Fast Track Project Report 4

Project update: October 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 PPWR Fast Track project had its first meeting at the end of July. The aim is to provide helpful information to the book industry supply chain. The Task and Finish Working Group (T&FWG) made up of volunteers from across BIC members. 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. To date:

- Initially the T&FWG met three times a week, but this been reduced again to either weekly or fortnightly,
- Work continues to understand the labelling requirements that must go on packages
- Working to start on writing the helpful information for the book industry supply chain

Initial Deliverables Achieved to Date:

- Several process flow maps have been created and approved to help people understand their role in PPWR

Next steps:

- Work continues to understand the various aspects of the labelling requirements under PPWR
- Work to start on writing the helpful guide for the book industry supply chain

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