



**Plastic-free consumer goods / goods containing
no synthetic material**

Definition

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1 Scope of application

This definition is valid for all plastic-free consumer goods and goods containing no synthetic material on the last trade level. The definition specifically concerns food and non-food goods (e.g. cosmetics and sanitary products), fashion, family and child, house, garden or leisure as well as paper or carton packaging for sales purposes.

The term “plastic-free” / “free of plastic” does not intend to assess or inform about the quality of an item.

2 Classifications

2.1 Plastics and synthetic materials

Plastics are organic macromolecular compounds, which are obtained through polymerization, polycondensation, polyaddition or similar procedural methods using molecules with a low molecular weight or chemically changing natural molecules. Substances or agents can be added to these compounds. The starting substance for plastics have perfectly natural organic bases, which are being intentionally altered by chemical reactions resulting in a polymer material. These can be classified into elastomers, thermoplastics and thermosets.

2.1.1 Elastomers (solid, viscoelasticity)

Elastomers are macromolecular materials which returns rapidly to its initial dimensions and shape after substantial deformation by a weak stress and release of the stress .

2.1.2 Thermoplastics

(can be moulded when heated, but melt when exposed to higher temperature)

Thermoplastics are capable of being softened repeatedly by heating and hardened by cooling through a temperature range characteristic of the plastic and, in the softened state, of being shaped by flow repeatedly into articles by moulding, extrusion or forming.

2.1.3 Thermoset (indeformable after solidification)

Plastic which, when cured by heat or other means, changes into a substantially infusible and insoluble product.

2.1.4 Bio-plastic, bio-degradable bio-degradable plastic

Bio-plastic based on renewable resources and / or are biodegradable. bio-degradable plastics are designed to undergo a significant change in its chemical structure under specific environmental conditions.

2.1.5 Microbeads

Micobeads are solid, insoluble plastic particles with a size smaller than 5 millimeters with regard to the longest total of the particle. The term also applies to plastic fibres which have a size smaller than 5 millimeters with regards to the diameter of the fibre.

2.1.6 Synthetic materials / standard plastics

Synthetics are plastics which are typically used in consumer goods. They are listed in the following chart 1. This listing is not definitive or complete.

Identification	abbreviation
Polyethylene	PE
Polypropylene	PP
Polyethylenterephthalate	PET
Polystyrene	PS
Styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymer	SBS
Polyamide	PA
Epoxides resin	EP
Polyurethane	PUR
Acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene	ABS
Polymethylmethacrylate	PMMA
Polyvinylchloride	PVC
Polycarbonate	PC
Polyester	PES
Elastane	EL
Polytetrafluorethylene	PTFE
Polyacice	PLA
Polyhydroxy fatty acide	PHB, PHV
Styrenic block copolymers	TPS

2.2 Consumer goods

2.2.1. Consumer goods are items that are produced for consumption and are being sold on the last trade level. A consumer good consists of the item itself and its sales packaging. In case the item is sold without packaging, this definition only applies to the item itself.

2.2.2. Product defined by only the item itself, resp. it's content without the according packaging.

2.2.3. The term "sales packaging" defines all sorts of containers, wraps, secondary packaging and covering boxes which are typically offered when selling the item on the last trade level. This excludes packaging that is being used during transmission and transportation of the item(s).

2.2.4. Consumers are defined as end-users of the item who do not further divest or sell the product.

2.3. Free of synthetics / plastic-free

A consumer good as defined in section 1 can be considered as “free of plastic” when it only contains materials not listed in section 2.1 once it enters the last trade level towards the customer.

The term „plastic-free“ or „free of plastic“ (ge. „plastikfrei“) applies to an item and its packaging, meaning the overall or cumulative product that is being sold to the end consumer. Meaning: both content and sales packaging have to be free of plastics. This requirement does not apply in cases described in section 2.3. as well as in cases in which an item is being sold loosely, without packaging. Means of production as well as appliances used in the production process and means of transport before and after sale of the item are not subject to this classification. Consumer goods and sales packaging which contain bio-degradable materials or synthetics cannot be classified as plastic-free or free of plastic unless they occur within the admissible range of contamination (0,5% of gross weight of full product).

2.4. Items that are plastic-free / free of plastic by nature

Items which are naturally free of plastics and synthetics or are forbidden to contain such materials by law, ex. food and beverages, can only be classified as plastic-free if their sales packaging is free of all materials listed in section 2.1.5. When labelling such items as “plastic-free” / “free of plastics” it is not permitted to suggest that the item or content is attributed plastic free.

2.5. Contamination

Contamination is defined as the unwanted defilement of a consumer good and its sales packaging with synthetics/ plastic, which can occur through environmental conditions, industrial residues, impurities within the production process or when recycled materials are being used in packaging, means of transport, storage or moving of the item. Such contamination can account for a maximum of 0,5% gross load weight of packaging and item and cannot be fully avoided. Provided that its contamination does not exceed the threshold of 0,5% of gross load weight, the term “plastic-free” or free of plastic is still applicable for the product.

The amount of plastics or synthetics of 0,5% of gross load weight of the packed item is only admitted when forms of contaminations as described in this section occur.