

Packaging Minimisation Checklist

PrestaShopCompliance.com
EU compliance for merchants

Cut waste and meet the PPWR empty-space and design rules

Minimising packaging under the PPWR

The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (Reg 2025/40) targets excess packaging, with core duties phasing in from 12 August 2026. For e-commerce, the headline is an empty-space limit of around 50% and a push towards recyclable, right-sized packaging. This checklist turns that into practical steps.

General guidance only, not legal advice. Empty-space methods and EPR schemes vary by member state.

Empty-space limit

E-commerce parcels face a cap on the void inside the box.

- Measure the ratio of empty space to product volume in your typical parcels.
- Work towards the empty-space limit of around 50% for e-commerce shipments.
- Exclude only the space genuinely needed to protect the goods.
- Track outliers where products ship in oversized boxes.

Right-sizing boxes

The simplest way to cut void is to match the box to the product.

- Offer a range of box sizes so orders can be matched closely.
- Use variable-height or made-to-measure packaging where volumes justify it.
- Review your most common orders and design boxes around them.

Cutting void fill

Reducing filler cuts both cost and waste.

- Replace loose fill with right-sizing wherever the product allows.
- Where protection is needed, choose recyclable void-fill materials.

- Avoid mixed-material fills that are hard to recycle.
-

Recyclable design

Packaging should be designed for recycling from the outset.

- Choose materials that are widely recyclable in your destination markets.
 - Avoid unnecessary laminates, coatings and adhesives that hinder recycling.
 - Design for easy separation of components at end of life.
 - Reduce the number of distinct materials per package.
-

Harmonised labelling

The PPWR introduces harmonised labelling to help sorting and recycling.

- Apply harmonised packaging labels as they come into force.
 - Indicate material composition to support correct disposal.
 - Keep labelling consistent across your packaging range.
-

Extended producer responsibility

EPR obligations apply per country and must be registered separately.

- Register for EPR in each country you ship packaging into.
 - Report packaging volumes and pay fees under each national scheme.
 - Keep records of registrations, reports and payments.
-