Guide to the Recyclability of Pharmaceutical Blister Packs

State of knowledge in March 2025.
With research still underway, changes may be made to this guide over the coming months to include any relevant findings.

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Contents







Context

The blister pack has proved its worth when it comes to protecting solid formulas, making it one of the most popular types of packaging in the healthcare sector. Yet it is still without a recycling stream because it is currently made of aluminium-PVC (alu-PVC).

French and European regulations are getting stricter and imposing new requirements, driving the need to find alternative technical solutions to the pharmaceutical blister pack as it is now – made of PVC and aluminium – to maximise its end of life potential. Patients, associations and NGOs are also putting pressure on companies to reduce their impact – the French are very keen on sorting and recycling as solutions.

The findings of a consumer* survey carried out by Adelphe to analyse perceptions of healthcare packaging revealed that **recyclability is the second highest priority for consumers**: they expect companies to take concrete action so that they, as consumers, can consume less and better.

In response to this, Adelphe chaired an expert working group for three years, made up of manufacturers and pharmaceutical laboratories, to **take stock of the current blister pack situation** and **start identifying alternatives**.

This groundwork led to a study whose goal was to draw up a comprehensive inventory of existing or emerging materials and alternative technical solutions on the market that could replace alu-PVC. Numerous discussions between Adelphe and the companies involved helped reveal the initial challenges and adjustments to be made to production lines. But they also highlighted the possible advantages of making such changes.

The goal of this guide is to provide you with key information about alu-PVC pharmaceutical blister packaging currently in use and what is known to date about the recyclability of proposed alternatives.

*Study carried out by Action Plus, on behalf of Adelphe, on pharmacist and consumer perceptions of the packaging used for products sold in pharmacies and parapharmacies.

The regulatory landscape

The French and European regulatory context is currently evolving in an effort to reduce the environmental impact of packaging and encourage recycling. Here is a list of some key measures.

The French Anti-Waste Law for a Circular Economy, or AGEC law (law no. 2020-105 of 10 February 2020) seeks to boost the transition of manufacturing and consumption models towards a circular economy model.

- **Eco-design requirement - 1 January 2023** *(Article 72)*:

Obligation to draw up and implement a packaging **prevention and eco-design plan**, so as to reduce the use of non-renewable resources, increase the use of recycled materials and ensure packaging is recyclable.

- **Reduction target - 1 January 2030** *(Article 9)*:

15% reduction in household waste and similar waste per inhabitant compared to 2010.

- **Recycling requirement by 1 January 2030** *(Article 61)* **at the latest:**

All packaging must be allocated a recycling stream.

- **Reuse requirement - 1 January 2027** *(Article 9)*:

Producers placing over 10,000 product units on the market must ensure that at least 10% of the corresponding packaging (household, industrial and commercial) is reused.

The European Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) has set harmonised targets for all of Europe to deal with various issues, including packaging reduction and recyclability. This regulation will apply from 12 August 2026, with requirements coming into effect between 2026 and 2040.

Several delegated acts will be published in 2028 to outline recyclability requirements for each packaging category.

As for the various **recyclability** and **recycled plastic content** targets, some pharmaceutical packaging will be exempt until 2035:

- Primary packaging units that are in direct contact with medication
- External packaging if it is essential for meeting specific requirements as regards protecting the quality of medication
- Contact-sensitive medical device and diagnostic in-vitro medical device packaging

Where recycled plastic content is concerned, the following are exempt: contact-sensitive plastic packaging for medical devices, devices intended exclusively for research, and devices being trialled.

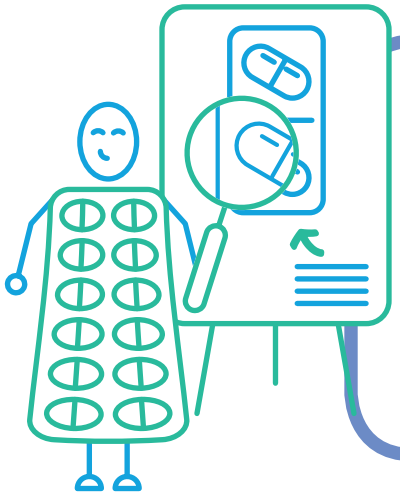
01

Current pharmaceutical BLISTERS packs

Alu-PVC blister packs: tonnage and composition

8,000 tonnes of pharmaceutical blister packaging are placed on the market annually, out of a total of 85,000 tonnes of household packaging generated by the health sector (from data declared in 2022)*.

This type of packaging currently consists of a PVC cavity tray (approx. 80% of the weight) and aluminium foil lidding (approx. 20% of the weight), which ensure the integrity of the medication and protect it from moisture in particular.



A closer look at blister packs

- Alu-PVC blister packs are the market standard.
- A blister pack consists of a PVC cavity tray with a thickness of 250-300 µ and aluminium foil lidding of 20 µ.
- PVC is the majority material. It is thermoformed to create the cavities for the tablets, which are then sealed in with aluminium lidding.
- This lidding is not peelable in most cases and regulatory markings are systematically printed onto it.

*Analysis of annual declarations submitted by Adelphe clients in 2022

Alu-PVC blister packs: potential at sorting centres

Consumers should place empty blister packs in a sorting bin. However, if a blister pack still contains medication, it must be returned to a pharmacy, where it will be collected by the producer responsibility organisation Cyclamed (approved by the public authorities). This guide and the analyses carried out only cover packaging no longer containing medication and collected *via* the bins with a yellow lid (sorting bins).

Alu-PVC blister packs

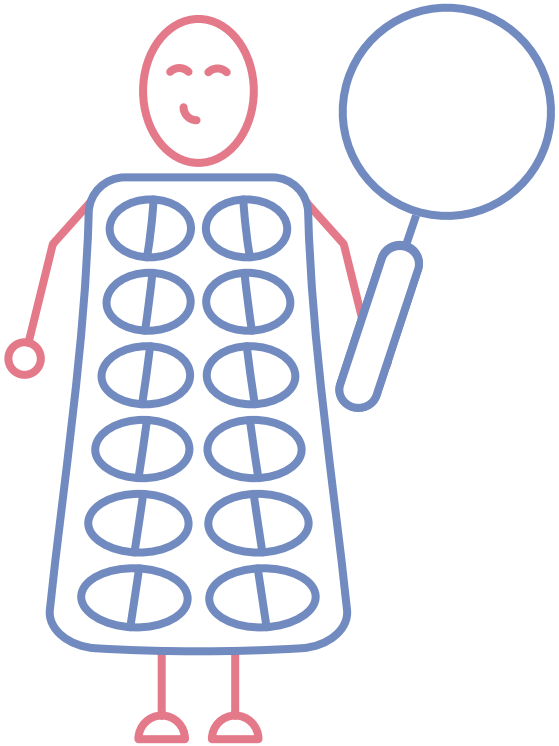
Given the non-recyclable nature of alu-PVC blister packs, the goal is to channel them into the rejects bin so that they don't disrupt the other waste streams.

- **Tests carried out at three different sorting centres** show that, despite being small, blister packs are not systematically channelled towards the "fines" (i.e. small packaging) stream. Results vary from one sorting centre to another, and some blister packs are not captured at this sorting-by-size phase.

- Given that alu-PVC blister packs are mainly composed of PVC and **do not have an allocated recycling stream**, they should be channelled towards the rejects bin. During the tests carried at sorting centres:

  - If the alu-PVC blister was channelled towards the fines stream, the aluminium content was significant enough for the blister to be detected by Eddy current machines used to capture "small aluminium items" (in the sorting centres equipped with this technology). **The presence of PVC disrupts this stream because of the chlorine compounds produced (hydrochloric acid) that damage the industrial equipment used for the aluminium stream.**

  - If the alu-PVC blister was channelled into the standard stream, the quantity of metal in the alu-PVC blister was rarely significant enough to be detected by the Eddy current machines used to capture "standard" aluminium items. **The presence of PVC generally means the packaging is rejected at sorting, however, sorting errors can lead to the presence of these disruptive PVC blister packs in the various material flows (fibrous or plastic).**



Alu-PVC blister packs: no existing recycling stream

Despite their proven efficiency in protecting medication in solid dose forms (from exposure to moisture, shocks, friction, oxygen, etc.), **there is no household packaging recycling stream for alu-PVC blister packs**.

WHY? Because they are composed of a PVC cavity tray with aluminium lidding, making them complex to process. PVC, which is the majority material in this packaging, **cannot be integrated into a household packaging recycling stream** as there is not enough tonnage available (this resin is not often found in household packaging).

Generally, **PVC disrupts the household packaging waste stream in a variety of ways** because it generates chlorine compounds during post-consumer processing (machines wear out more quickly, recycled material quality is affected, etc.).
Please note that barriers containing chlorine compounds (e.g. PVDC) are often applied as an internal layer on cavity tray materials used as an alternative to PVC. Such barriers create the same problems in terms of chlorine compound release and are therefore **not regarded as acceptable alternatives.**

PVC and other similar plastics containing chlorine compounds are not currently approved for additional recovery (e.g. Solid Recovered Fuel) either. It means that not only is such material non-recyclable, but it can't be turned into energy via the waste incineration process either.

Key challenges for the pharmaceutical sector

Packaging used for medication, medical devices or food supplements plays an essential role in guaranteeing the product's stability, efficacy, safety and traceability, to reduce the risk of counterfeit. Products packaged in blister packs also need to meet very strict pharmacovigiliance requirements (via marketing authorisation (MA) applications for medicines, CE marking for medical devices, and the mutual recognition procedure (Article 16) for food supplements).

It is important to know that not all medicines have the same barrier requirements. Each product will have its own specific needs, making it impossible to generalise barrier requirements. Pharmaceutical blister packs generally require moisture-resistant barrier properties, especially as some products are highly sensitive to moisture.

We have identified three main categories:

- 80% of medicines require some barrier properties **LEVEL 1**
- 10% of medicines require high barrier properties **LEVEL 2**
- 10% of medicines require very high barrier properties **LEVEL 3**

These categories and levels are not associated with any precise barrier requirement values, as each product has its own specificities. However, the materials considered can be classed according to these three main categories. Adding additives, barriers, or changing the structural design of a blister can also improve the properties of each material individually. A more in-depth study will be required to confirm the compatibility of a solution with the various products.
Research on solutions for the "very high barrier properties" category is less advanced for the moment. We therefore suggest focusing on Level 1 or 2 product packaging for now if your company is launching its first studies.

As well as being a protective barrier, a pharmaceutical blister needs to meet certain requirements, which influence the choice of technical packaging solution:

- A certain amount of information (product name, dosage, pharmaceutical form, MA holder, batch number, expiry date) must be provided on the primary packaging item.
- In most cases, the lidding needs to allow for push-through opening rather than being fully peelable. It allows consumers to take just one dose of medication at a time. This opening system also meets "child-resistant packaging" requirements. With this push-through system, the lidding must be non-peelable, e.g. there is no tab added to peel the lidding back.
- The fact that the blister lidding it is not peelable makes sure the packaging meets the integrity requirements for the product it contains. That's because the integrity of this type of packaging is generally guaranteed by the seal.

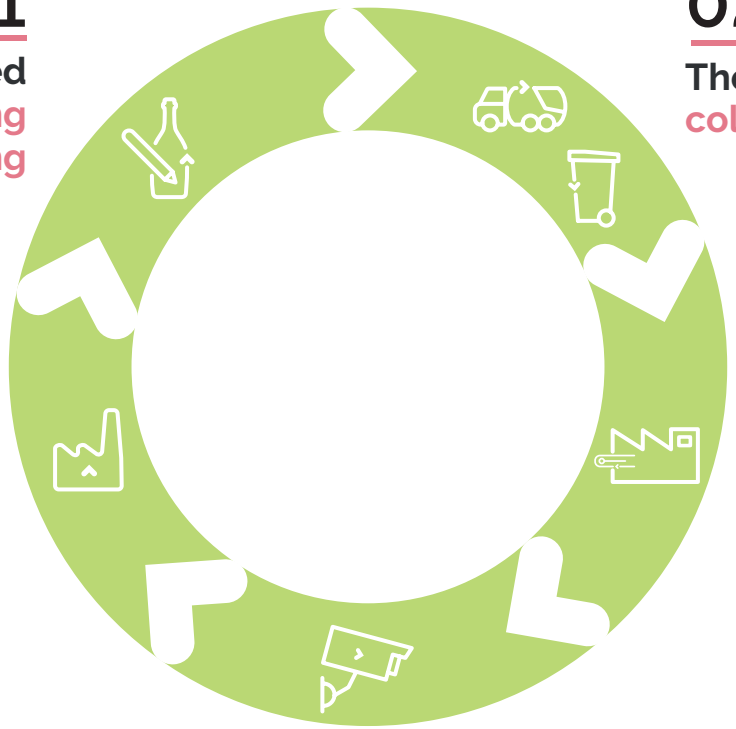
02

Switching to recyclable BLISTER packs: possible solutions

What is recyclable packaging?

01
Eco-designed product-packaging pairing

02
The packaging can be collected efficiently



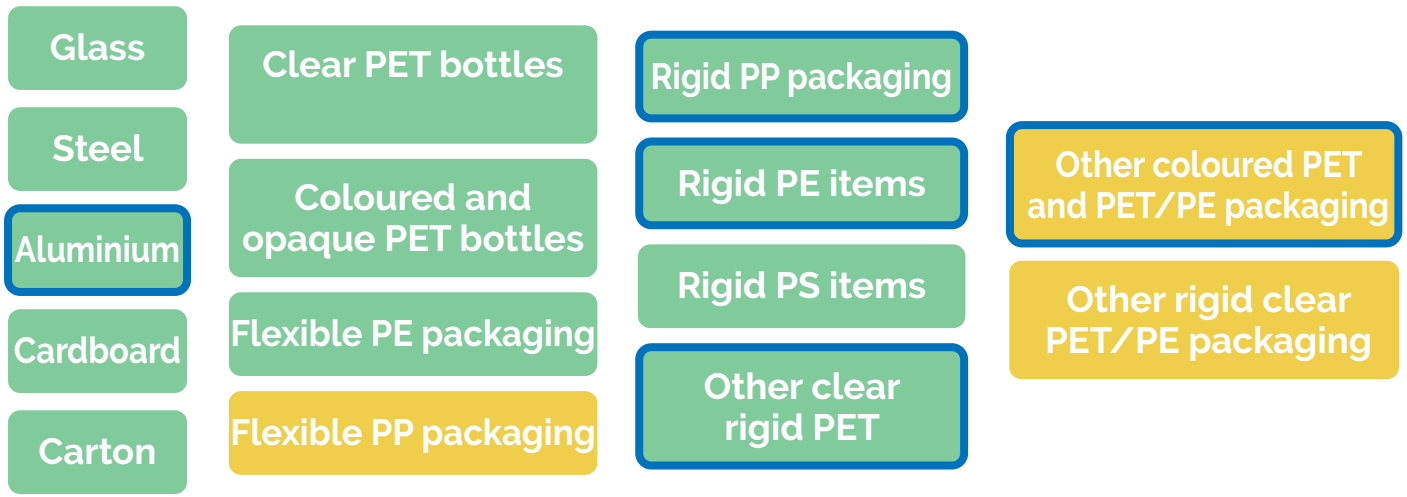
03
The packaging can be sorted

04
No elements or substances that disrupt sorting

05
The packaging can be recycled on a large scale

Switching to a recyclable solution: existing recycling streams

To help you assess the recyclability of pharmaceutical blister packs, here is a presentation of the different existing and emerging recycling streams.



For packaging to be considered "recyclable", it has to be able to integrate an existing recycling stream without disrupting it. To help establish recyclability, technical guidelines have been published by the various Technical Committees on the recyclability of different materials (see useful links on page 27).

Switching to a recyclable solution

An initial study was carried out in 2023, involving a few manufacturers and companies, to draw up a list of existing or emerging alternatives.

It's worth noting that it is highly unlikely that the study identified all possible solutions, so the list is not exhaustive:

- **PET alternatives** (page 15)
- **PP alternatives** (page 17)
- **PE alternatives** (page 18)
- **Aluminium alternatives** (page 19)
- **Cellulose alternatives** (page 20)

To decide between the existing or emerging alternative blister packs, you must first ensure the blister pack or packs are **recyclable**.

You then need to choose the packaging with **the lowest environmental impact** as a priority.

A simplified LCA (with no peer review) carried out by Adelphe seems to show that all the plastic blister alternatives have a lower environmental impact than current alu-PVC blister packs. However, each case has its own specificities, which have a significant impact on the outcome of an LCA (thickness, quantity of material used, etc.). All the more reason for each company to carry out an LCA that takes its own specific cases into account.

Analysing the recyclability of the alternatives on offer

Given that blister packs need to be printable, all the alternatives set out below include printing on the lidding.

Packaging cannot be considered recyclable if COTREP has not studied its composition (see useful links in page 27).

Its destination at sorting centres will need to be assessed along with its compatibility with the recycling stream concerned.

Recyclable alternatives

- Aluminium cavity tray + aluminium lidding (PVC-free)
- Clear PET cavity tray + peelable d<1 lidding (metal-free)
- PE cavity tray + peelable PE lidding
- PP cavity tray + peelable or non-peelable, PP lidding (with mineral fillers or no mineral fillers)

Recyclable alternatives – limited compatibility

- PE cavity tray + non-peelable PE lidding
- PE cavity tray + peelable aluminium lidding

Alternatives under study

- Coloured PET cavity tray + PET lidding
- PP-COC-PP cavity tray and PE-COC-PE cavity tray

Non-recyclable alternatives

- Aluminium cavity tray containing PVC
- PET cavity tray + non-peelable d<1 lidding
- Clear PET cavity tray + PET lidding
- PET cavity tray + aluminium lidding
- PE cavity tray + non-peelable aluminium lidding

Alternatives to alu-PVC blister packs
Clear PET blister

Material: Clear PET cavity tray

Intended application: LEVEL 1

Recycling stream:
A PET blister is similar to a "PET tray". The recycling stream for clear PET trays has been operational since the beginning of 2025. To be recyclable, clear PET blister packs need to comply with COTREP guidelines to avoid introducing any disruptive elements into the stream:
https://www.cotrep.fr/en/steps/pots-and-trays/pt-clear-pet/

We have identified several clear PET solutions for blister packs, whose recyclability will depend on the lidding used:

Clear PET cavity tray + unprinted PET lidding

If this lidding is unprinted and non-peelable, it is **recyclable, but with limited compatibility**

Unprinted and peelable PET lidding is therefore preferable to render the blister **recyclable**

Clear PET cavity tray + printed PET lidding

The ink on the lidding will affect the quality of the recycled materials (colour and suitability for food contact)

Non-recyclable

Clear PET cavity tray + peelable metal-free d<1 lidding

This lidding can be separated from the main part of the packaging at the flotation stage at recycling plants.

Recyclable

Clear PET cavity tray + aluminium lidding

Metal is very disruptive for recycling streams

Non-recyclable

The "clear PET tray" stream does not authorise direct printing on packaging, or on lidding that cannot be separated from the packaging. This stream is partly channelled towards a mechanical recycling process, where ink significantly disrupts the production of clear recycled material suitable for food contact.

Alternatives to alu-PVC blister packs

Coloured PET blister packs

- **Material:** Coloured PET cavity tray
- **Intended application:** LEVEL 1
- **Recycling stream:**

A PET blister is similar to a "PET tray". A coloured PET tray recycling stream does not exist for now, but is currently under study.

- Adelphe and its parent company, Citeo, are working on integrating coloured PET trays into existing recycling streams. For packaging to be recycled, it needs to be correctly sorted in primary and secondary sorting centres, and accepted in recycling streams too.

Please note that **if chemical recycling is rolled out** over the coming years for "coloured PET trays":

- For blister packs with printed non-peelable lidding (not recyclable in the clear PET stream), having a **coloured PET cavity tray** would be a very interesting solution if chemical recycling is rolled out. Ink does not cause any issues for producing quality recycled material through the chemical recycling process.
- Using **PET lidding** or lidding containing PET would also be preferable if chemical recycling is rolled out for this flow, as it would make it easier to channel the blister at sorting and could potentially be recycled.

Alternatives to alu-PVC blister packs
PP blister packs

- **Material:** PP cavity tray
- **Intended application:** LEVEL 1 or 2
- **Recycling stream:**
  A PP blister pack can be integrated into the existing rigid PP stream as long as PP counts for at least 50% of its total weight.
  - The guidelines are available on the COTREP website:
    https://www.cotrep.fr/en/steps/pots-and-trays/pt-pp/

To be able to fulfil certain functions, complex structures or additives are used.
This can have an impact on the recyclability of the packaging:

PP cavity tray + peelable or non-peelable PP lidding with additives

(guideline specific to pharmaceutical blister packs)

Adding additives to the lidding material makes it "push-through", so that consumers can push the medication dose through the lidding. The small amount of additives in the lidding does not disrupt the recycling process if the overall packaging (cavity tray+lidding) density is <1. As the lidding is non-peelable, it cannot be separated from the main part of the packaging. For the material to be recycled, it has to behave like the other PP material during the flotation stage at recycling plants. **Recyclable**

If the overall packaging density is greater than 1, the material will be separated at the flotation stage and not be channelled towards recycling. **Non-recyclable**

Suggestions for improvement: This "push-through" property can be also be created by laser scoring lidding, which makes it easier to open. This option is to be used as a priority over adding additives to the packaging.

PP/COC/PP cavity tray

COC (cyclic olefin copolymer) is a material that has been studied by manufacturers as a means of improving the barrier properties of PP pharmaceutical blister packs. COTREP has no information on how this type of blister would behave in sorting centres or how it would impact the recycling stream it ends up in. That's why it decided to look at this packaging more closely – studies have been in progress since summer 2024. The findings should be published in the second half of 2025.

For now, we cannot confirm whether this solution is recyclable.

PP cavity tray + peelable PP lidding or non-peelable

The lidding is not destined to be recycled – it will be removed through suction at the recycling plant if it is peelable. The small amount of lidding that cannot be removed will remain with the other PP material and be recycled without disrupting the rigid PP stream.
Recyclable
(specific recommendation for pharmaceutical blisters)
recyclable, but with limite

PP cavity tray + non-peelable aluminium lidding

When rigid PP packaging contains aluminium that cannot be separated at recycling, the packaging disrupts the PP recycling stream and affects the quality of the recycled material.
Non-recyclable

Alternatives to alu-PVC blister packs

PE blister packs

- **Material:** PE cavity tray
- **Intended application:** LEVEL 1 or 2
- **Recycling stream:**

A PE blister pack can be integrated into the existing rigid PE stream as long as PE counts for at least 50% of its total weight.

- All the guidelines can be found on the COTREP website:
  https://www.cotrep.fr/en/steps/pots-and-trays/pt-hdpe/

We have identified several PE solutions for blister packs, whose recyclability will depend on the lidding or complex structure used:

PE cavity tray + peelable PE lidding

The lidding is not destined to be recycled – it will be removed through suction at the recycling plant. The small amount of lidding that cannot be removed will remain with the other PE material and be recycled without disrupting the rigid PE stream. **Recyclable**

Non-peelable PE lidding cannot, however, be separated from the cavity tray by suction, which means the packaging is **recyclable, but with limited compatibility**

PE cavity tray + non-peelable aluminium lidding

When rigid PE packaging contains aluminium that cannot be separated at recycling, the packaging disrupts the PE recycling stream and affects the quality of the recycled material.

Non-recyclable

PE/COC/PE cavity tray

COC (cyclic olefin copolymer) is a material that has been studied by manufacturers as a means of improving the barrier properties of PE pharmaceutical blister packs.

COTREP has no information on how this type of blister would behave in sorting centres or how it would impact the recycling stream it ends up in. It has already decided to look more closely at PP/COC/PP blister packs (see page 17), and the findings could be extrapolated and applied to PE/COC/PE blister packs.

For now, we cannot confirm whether this solution is recyclable.

Alternatives to alu-PVC blister packs

Aluminium blister packs

- **Material:** Aluminium cavity tray + aluminium lidding

Generally, the aluminium cavity tray also contains PE or PP (amounting to less than 30% of the weight)

- **Intended application:** LEVEL 2

- **Recycling stream:**

An aluminium blister pack can be integrated into the existing aluminium stream as long as aluminium counts for at least 50% of its total weight.

- Guidelines are available on Alutrec's website: **https://www.alutrec.fr/la-matrice-de-recyclabilite/**

OPA-aluminium-PE
or OPA-aluminium-PP
cavity tray + aluminium lidding

Recyclable

Aluminium cavity tray + aluminium lidding, containing a polymer with chlorine compounds (e.g. PVC)

The presence of PVC disrupts the aluminium recycling stream because of the chlorine compounds (which produce hydrochloric acid) that damage the industrial equipment used in the stream.

Recyclable but best avoided if the chlorine content* is <20% of the packaging's overall mass

Not recyclable if the chlorine content* is >20% of the packaging's overall mass

Chlorine content = proportion of chlorine isolated from its carbon chain. It does not refer to the amount of polymer with chlorine compounds as a whole.

As far as we know, aluminium blister packs are larger than alu-PVC blister packs because, when the cavities are formed, the material does provide the same clearly defined angles that plastic can. As a result, although these solutions are interesting in terms of the barrier properties they provide, they use more material for the same quantity of packaged product than plastic solutions.

Primary aluminium production has a high impact on the environment, however, there are interesting developments that manufacturers can take into account to lower the impact (using renewable energy to reduce the impact of electrolysis, inert anode technology, carbon storage technology).

Other possibilities for reducing the environmental impacts of this solution:

- Reducing the thickness and dimensions as much as possible without losing any of the desired properties.
- Using recycled aluminium – solution under study

Alternatives to alu-PVC blister packs
Cellulose blister packs

- **Material:** Moulded cellulose (wood fibre)
- **Intended application:** not yet defined. It will depend on the composition (and especially whether additives or plastic layers are added).
- **Recycling stream:**

Cellulose blister packs can be channelled towards the paper/cardboard stream if the proportion of paper/cardboard content is greater than 50%, as long as CEREC and COCET guidelines are followed:

https://v2.citeo.com/ecoconcevoir/recycler/recyclabilite-des-emballages-papier-carton/

Important: paper by itself does not offer the barrier properties required for protecting medicines from moisture. To meet barrier requirements, several possible solutions are being explored:

- Adding additives (adhesive agents)
- Adding a plastic layer – in that case, the fibre content must count for over 50% of the packaging weight.

Compositions such as these could impact the blister pack's recyclability.

- For now, there is little information available on the exact composition of such blister packs.
- It is definitely worth exploring as an alternative, but it is unlikely to be available operationally in the next few months or years.

03

Tools provided by Adelphe to guide you

Assessing blister pack recyclability: methodology

Step 1
Determine the packaging category
The majority material is the material that counts for over 50% of the packaging's weight.

Step 2
Has a collection system been set up for this packaging?

Step 3
Does this packaging have an existing recycling stream?
(see page 11)
Recyclers are interested in recovering the main part of the packaging as a priority. That's why the packaging's majority material needs to be compatible with an existing recycling stream

Step 4
Can this packaging be properly channelled towards this stream at sorting centres?

Step 5
Can the packaging be included in the stream?
Associated packaging elements sometimes cause disruptions to the recycling stream, or even prevent the packaging from being recycled in the stream.

Focus on pharmaceutical blister packs

Methodology: how to assess the recyclability of pharmaceutical blister packs

Packaging consists of a main packaging element and associated elements

Cardboard box: considered as main packaging element 1
With printing = inks

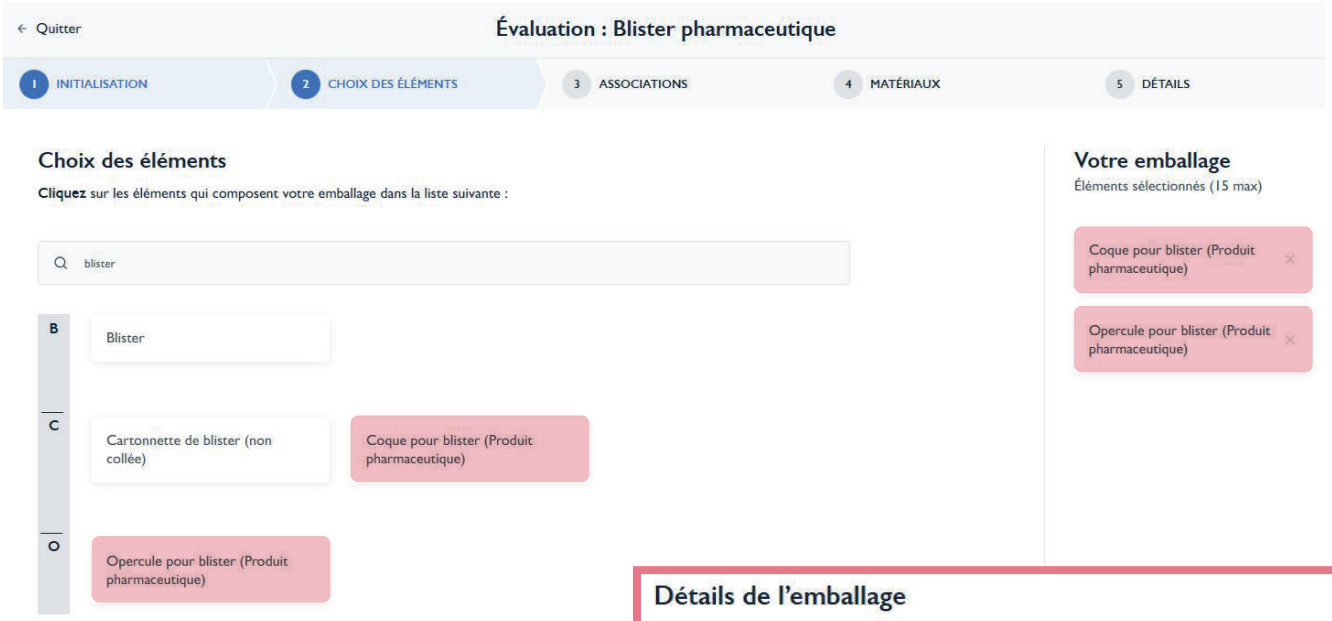
Pharmaceutical blister pack: considered as main packaging element 2
Cavity tray = main element
Lidding = associated element
with printing on lidding = inks

The box and the cavity tray need to be treated separately during recyclability assessment.

A pharmaceutical blister pack is a rigid packaging item that should be regarded as a "tray". The material used for the rigid part, or cavity tray, is the majority material in terms of weight*: it is used for the main part of the packaging and is therefore the **main packaging element**. It is this main part of the packaging which is recovered during recycling. The elements associated with this main element are called **associated elements** (lidding, labels, decorative elements, etc.) and must be designed so as not to disrupt or prevent the recycling of the main packaging element.

**Please note that if during packaging development the thickness of the main part of the packaging is significantly reduced (to below 150 µm), it could be regarded as flexible packaging.*

Assessing blister pack recyclability with TREE: case study involving aluminium-PVC blister packaging



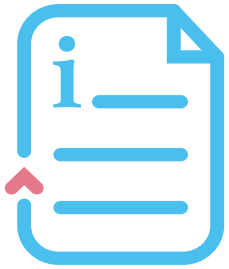
› Example: PVC cavity tray

› Example: Aluminium lidding

Applying eco-design measures to the CSU as a whole (box + leaflet + blister)

Box

- Move away from standardised packaging to tailor the size to the content
- Reduce the empty space ratio as much as possible
- Reduce grammages to avoid over-protection
- Opt for eco-inking
- Opt for unbleached paper/cardboard
- Opt to incorporate recycled paper/ cardboard
- Opt for sustainable and certified sourcing for paper/cardboard
- Opt for a physical tamper-proof system or a plastic sticker



Leaflet

- Reduce the size
- Reduce the grammage to an absolute minimum
- Opt for eco-inking
- Opt to incorporate recycled paper
- Opt for sustainable and certified sourcing for paper

Blister pack

- Reduce the size as much as possible to use less material*
- Reduce the thickness of the various layers
- Limit the quantity of PUs (packaging units)**
- Opt for PVC-free and recyclable blister packs

*Pharmaceutical blister packs are small in size, making them difficult to detect and capture correctly at sorting centres. This said, reducing the size of packaging is strongly recommended for packaging as a whole – increasing the size of this type of packaging to make it "more detectable" at sorting centres is not a viable option.

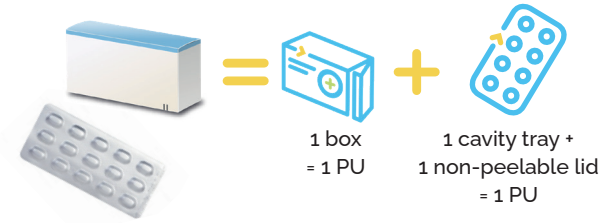
**In some cases, hospitals insist on having several packaging units so that they can dispense medicine on a unit basis (to be able to dispense a single dose to a patient). When there are no specific requirements, having a single pack for several products is preferable, to minimise the quantity of packaging material required.

Adelphe EPR contribution: how to declare your pharmaceutical blister packaging

Non-snappable blister packs with non-peelable lidding

The blister pack's cavity tray and non-peelable lidding form a whole (i.e. the lidding cannot be removed from the tray). The cavity tray + lidding therefore count as a single packaging unit (1 PU). To access the medication, consumers must push each individual dose through the lidding.

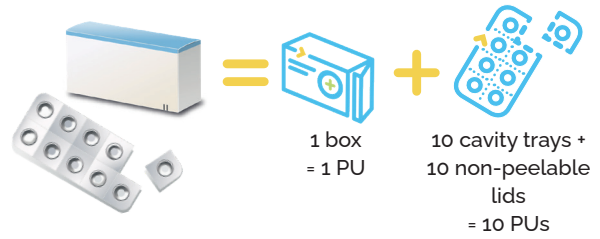
1 cavity tray + 1 non-peelable lid + 1 box = 2 PUs



Snappable blister with non-peelable lidding

The cavity tray can be separated into ten sections (one per dose) and the lidding is non-peelable (i.e. the lidding cannot be separated from the tray). To access the medication, consumers must push each individual dose through the lidding.

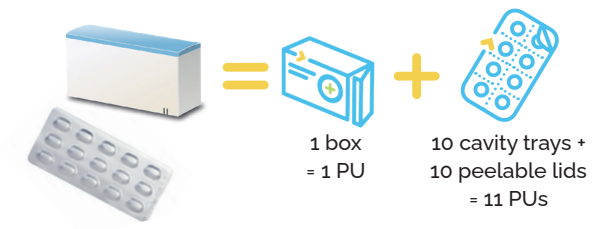
10 cavity trays + 10 non-peelable lids + 1 box = 11 PUs



Non-snappable blister packs with per-dose peelable lidding

The cavity tray is a single unit: the lid is divided into 10 sections (one for each dose of medication). Consumers must remove a section of the lid each time they need to access one dose of medication

1 cavity tray + 10 peelable lids + 1 box = 12 PUs



When you submit your annual declaration to Adelphe to help finance the recycling of your packaging, a penalty is applied for PVC, which has no recycling stream and is a disruptive element. Finding alternatives to PVC will enable you to reduce your impacts and, thereby, the amount of annual contribution paid (based on the rates applicable for 2025).

Tools - Adelphe portal

www.monespace.adelphe.fr
ECO-DESIGN tab

Assess your packaging and draw up an action plan thanks to an online space dedicated to packaging eco-design that will help you make the right choices in terms of reduction, reuse and recyclability.

Find out more about reduction

A simple (pdf) tool to reduce your packaging in six easy steps.

- Challenge the usefulness of the functions fulfilled by referring to the AGEC law.
- Identify alternative solutions to single-use, such as refillable packaging.
- Minimise the number of units and optimise packaging size (reduce thicknesses and empty space).

less
Solutions pour réduire les emballages

Available here

Test recyclability

Use TREE to:

- Assess the recyclability of your packaging.
- The report will indicate how you can improve recyclability and make the right choices in terms of design and sustainable procurement.

tree
Test de la Recyclabilité des Emballages

Available here

Prevention and eco-design plans specific to the health sector

drawn up by Adelphe experts with businesses and their federations to identify the key 3R measures for each type of activity within the sector.

Adelphe client portal
in the the "Eco-design" section

Glossary & useful links

COC
Cyclic olefin copolymer

CSU
Consumer Sales Unit

LCA
Life cycle analysis

MA
Marketing authorisation

PE
Polyethylene

PET
Polyethylene terephthalate

PP
Polypropylene

PU
Packaging unit

PVC
Polyvinyl chloride

Key Resource – Technical Committees

Explore the guidelines on recyclability

- **COTREP** (Technical Committee for the Recycling of Plastic Packaging)
  https://www.cotrep.fr/en/steps/pots-and-trays/

- **CEREC** (Technical Committee for the Recycling of Paper/Cardboard Household Packaging)
  https://v2.citeo.com/ecoconcevoir/recycler/recyclabilite-des-emballages-papier-carton/

- **COTREP** (Technical Committee for the Recycling of Plastic Packaging)
  https://www.alutrec.fr/la-matrice-de-recyclabilite/

- **COCET** (Committee for Studying the Behaviour of Packaging in Sorting Centres)
  https://www.cocet.fr/qui-sommes-nous/

Non-binding photos and visuals.

Sign in

www.monespace.adelphe.fr

Contact us

ecoconception@adelphe.fr

+33 (0) 809 108 108
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adelphe

2 bis avenue de Taillebourg
75011 Paris, France

Tel. +33 (0)1 81 69 05 50
www.adelphe.fr

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