

FAQ Flexible packaging (08/03/2024)

Note: sorting and recycling technologies are constantly evolving, therefore, the design for recycling guidelines evolve too. Please make sure you have the latest version of this file, by verifying the date of the last update on Fost Plus' website.

What are the flexible packaging recycled in Belgium?

There are 2 streams for flexibles in Belgian sorting centers: *PE Films* and *Other Films*.

What type of films are accepted in the “Other Films” stream?

The “Other Films” is still a relatively new stream where we mainly want as many mono-PP as possible, but for the time being other multi-material films are allowed in that flow.

What is currently accepted in the “Other Films” stream?

- Mono-PP
- Mixed PO
- Other plastic structures such as PET/PE, PA/PE, OPP/PETmet/PE with >95% of the main polymers

Note for multi-material films such as PET/PE:

While they are currently accepted in the “Other Films” stream, we are still investigating the impact of these multi-materials films on the recyclability of the stream. However, most studies show that they are not recyclable therefore, there is a high chance that after further research, these films with PET and polyolefin will be considered as non-recyclable.

The Design for Recycling (D4R) advice is to switch to a mono-material such as mono-PE or mono-PP.

Note for mixed-PO:

There is a risk that these flexibles would be considered non-recyclable in the coming years at European level, therefore, the D4R advice is to switch to a mono-material such as mono-PE or PP

What is not accepted in the “Other Films” stream?

- Biodegradable (including compostable) films
- Films of plastic/aluminium laminate
- Other plastics such as PVC or PET-G

What are the end-applications for post-consumer *Other Films* and *PE Films* recycling?

Post-consumer *PE Films* are recycled into new PE films.

Post-consumer *Other Films* are recycled mostly into garden furniture, traffic signalization tools, etc. Examples can be found on <https://www.ecoo.eu/en>.