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Technical Assistance for Assessment of Türkiye's Potential on Transition to Circular Economy

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Activity 2.2.2. Workshop on Roadmap on Single Use Plastics and Marine Litter

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Commission guidelines on single-use plastic products in accordance with Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment

- The Guidelines, published on June 7, 2021, provide guidance on the **clarification and implementation** of the product scope of plastics regulated under **the SUP Directive**.
- The Guidelines provide a description, **by means of specific product criteria**, of the different items that are caught under the Directive, including food containers, packets and wrappers, and beverage containers.
- The Directive applies to all single-use plastic **products listed** in its **Annex**, as well as to all products made from **oxo-degradable plastics**, and to **fishing gear** containing plastic.
- The Guidelines **do not cover in detail** fishing gear and products made from oxo-degradable plastic.
- The terms "**plastic**", "**polymer**", "**natural polymers**", "**chemically modified**" and "**single-use plastic product**" are defined in the Guidelines.



Food containers

- **Food containers**, i.e. receptacles such as boxes, with or without a cover.
- *Criterion:*
 - 1) *intended for immediate consumption, either on-the-spot or take-away*
 - 2) *typically consumed from the receptacle*
 - 3) *ready to be consumed without any further preparation, such as cooking, boiling or heating*

Illustrative application of the criteria to interpret the definition of single use plastic food containers						
Type of food container	General criteria		Product-specific criteria			Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Intended for immediate consumption	Typically consumed from the receptacle	Ready to be consumed without further preparation	
Plastic food container containing a portion hot meal	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Plastic food container containing a cold meal	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Cardboard food container with plastic lining or coating, intended to contain hot or cold meal	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Plastic food container containing a dessert	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Plastic food container containing vegetables or fruit	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Plastic food container containing snacks such as nuts, crackers	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Plastic food container containing sauces and bread spreads (e.g. mustard, ketchup or dips)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Plastic food container containing vegetables or fruit that do not require further preparation	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Plastic food container containing a frozen meal which requires further preparation	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	Excluded Not typically sold as a takeaway; foodstuff requires preparation

Packet and wrappers

- **Packets and wrappers** made from flexible material containing food that is intended for immediate consumption from the packet or wrapper without any further preparation.
- *Criterion:*
 - 1) *made from flexible material*
 - 2) *containing food intended for immediate consumption from the packet or wrapper without any further preparation*

Examples of packets and wrappers					
Type of packet or wrapper	General criteria		Product-specific criteria		Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Made from flexible material	Intended for immediate consumption from the packet or wrapper without any further preparation	
Packet or wrapper containing food for immediate consumption (e.g. biscuits, nuts, crisps, popcorn, sweets, chocolate bars, bakery goods, frozen goods) sold by single unit	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Packet or wrapper containing food for immediate consumption from the packet or wrapper without any further preparation (e.g. crisps, sweets, chocolate bars, bakery goods, frozen goods) sold in one or more than one unit (i.e. within a multipack receptacle)	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Packet containing multiple-serve portions of food for immediate consumption from the packet and which are not individually wrapped (e.g. bakery goods, biscuits, sweets, chewing gum, crisps)	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Sandwich wrapper	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Packet containing condiment/sauce	YES	YES	YES	YES	Included
Packet containing dry breakfast cereals	YES	YES	YES	NO	EXCLUDED foodstuff is not intended for immediate consumption from the packet; milk is typically added before consumption and outside of the packet

Cutlery, plates, straws and stirrers

- **Cutlery, plates, straws, and stirrers** are addressed in Article 5 of the Directive but are not defined in the Directive.
 - *Disposable catering supplies (39222 100-5)*
 - *Disposable cutlery and plates (39222 110-8)*
- Cutlery, plates, straws and stirrers that are made entirely of natural polymers, which have not been chemically modified, fall outside the scope of the Directive.
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Illustrative application of the criteria to interpret the definition of single use plastic cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers					
Types of cutlery; plates; straws; stirrers	General criteria		Product-specific criteria		Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Non-durable material	Not a medical device	
Single-use cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers made wholly of plastic	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Single-use cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers made partly of plastic, e.g. made predominantly of non-plastic material but with a plastic lining/coating	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Single-use plastic straws attached to/integrated into a beverage container	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (under Art 5)
Single-use plastic cutlery attached to/integrated into food packaging	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (under Art 5)
Single-use cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers not made of plastic, e.g. paper- or wood-based without a plastic lining/coating	NO	YES	YES	YES	EXCLUDED: Product does not contain plastic
Multiple-use cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers not made of plastic but of durable material, e.g. ceramics or metal	NO	NO	NO	YES	EXCLUDED: Product not intended for single-use
Multiple-use durable plastic cutlery, plates, straws, stirrers purposely designed and placed on the market with the objective to be used more than once and typically conceived and used by consumer as such	YES	NO	NO	YES	EXCLUDED: Product not intended for single-use
Plastic straws intended for use as medical device and carrying respective CE marking	YES	YES	YES	NO	EXCLUDED: Product intended for use as medical device

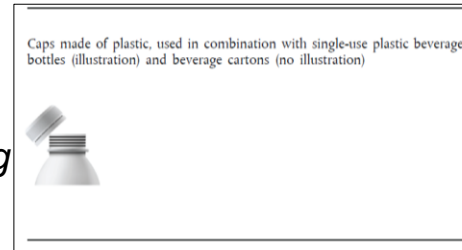
Beverage containers, beverage bottles and cups for beverages





- **Beverage containers** with a capacity of up to three litres, i.e. receptacles used to contain liquid, such as beverage bottles including their caps and lids and composite beverage packaging including their caps and lids.
- **Beverage bottles** with a capacity of up to three litres, including their caps and lids.
- *Covers and lids are also to be included in this product category.*





Types of beverage containers and beverage bottles	General criteria		Product-specific criteria		Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Capacity	Liquid container	
Pouches (fully plastic or with plastic layer, up to three litres)	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (Beverage Container)
Plastic bottles (up to three litres)	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (Beverage Bottle)
Plastic container with single-serve portion of milk or cream (e.g. for coffee or tea)	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (Beverage Container)
Composite beverage carton (up to three litres)	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (Beverage Container)
Flexible plastic beverage container (up to three litres) in a carton box separable by hand	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (Beverage Container)
Plastic water bottle above 3 litres	YES	NO	NO	YES	EXCLUDED The capacity is over 3 litres
Reusable and refillable plastic beverage bottles in case designed and placed on the market for such purpose and typically conceived and used by consumer as such	YES	NO	YES	YES	EXCLUDED Reusable bottle
One piece plastic beverage container with a moulded break-off closure	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (Beverage Container)

Caps, covers and lids

- Caps:
 - *prevent the contained liquid from leaking*
 - *allow for safe transportation*
- Lids:
 - *plastic or composite material that includes plastic films*
 - *sealed onto beverage containers, beverage bottles and cups for beverages.*
 - *peeled or torn-off*
 - *cannot be placed back on the product*
- Covers:
 - *protect the liquid contained but generally do not provide a complete seal*
 - *can be re-placed on the product after having been removed*



Type of caps, lids and covers	Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive
Sports caps made of plastic, used in combination with single-use plastic beverage bottles 	INCLUDED
Caps made of plastic, used in combination with single-use plastic beverage pouches 	INCLUDED
Flip-top caps for single-use plastic beverage containers 	INCLUDED
Plastic cap with separate sealing membrane (two-step closure) used in combination with a single-use plastic beverage container 	INCLUDED

Type of caps, lids and covers	Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive
Covers made of plastic, used with single-use plastic cups for beverages 	INCLUDED
Roll on pilfer proof aluminium cap with plastic seal and plastic tamper evident band used in combination with single-use plastic beverage containers and beverage bottles 	PARTIALLY INCLUDED Metal caps or lids with plastic seals are subject to the requirements of the Directive, except the product requirements in Article 6.
Pull ring caps with plastic seal and plastic pull tab used in combination with single-use plastic beverage containers and beverage bottles 	PARTIALLY INCLUDED Metal caps or lids with plastic seals are subject to the requirements of the Directive, except the product requirements in Article 6.
Foil lid seal on a single-use plastic beverage container 	INCLUDED The sealing membrane does not enter into the definition of 'cap' or 'lid' and is not in the scope of Article 6.






Illustrative examples of cups for beverages

Type of cups for beverages	General criteria		Product-specific criteria	Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Filled or intended to be filled with a beverage	
Cups for cold beverages made of 100 % plastic (with or without cover or lid)	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (CUP for BEVERAGE)
Pre-filled paper-based cups with plastic lining or coating for (usually cold) beverages (with or without cover or lid)	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (CUP for BEVERAGE)
Cups sold in retail and wholesale stores made of 100 % plastic for juices or alcohol containing drinks	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (CUP for BEVERAGE)
Empty cups made of 100 % plastic and empty paper-based cups with plastic lining or coating for hot or cold beverages (with or without cover or lid)	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (CUP for BEVERAGE)

Paper-based cups with plastic lining or coating sold in retail and wholesale stores	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (CUP for BEVERAGE)	Plastic cup with instant soup powder to which the addition of e.g. water is necessary before the product can be consumed	YES	YES	NO	EXCLUDED The cup is intended to be used for preparing a soup, which is not a beverage under the Directive
Paper-based cups with bio-based or biodegradable plastic lining or coating sold in retail and wholesale stores	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (CUP for BEVERAGE)					
Re-usable plastic cups sold as part of refill schemes	YES	NO	YES	EXCLUDED The cup is reusable (part of a refill system)	Reusable beverage cups sold in retail shops for multiple uses in case designed and placed on the market for such purpose and typically conceived and used by consumer as such	YES	NO	YES	EXCLUDED The cup is reusable
Plastic cup with instant beverage powders to which the addition of e.g. milk or water is necessary before the product can be consumed	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED (CUP for BEVERAGE)	Refillable cups sold in retail shops for multiple uses	YES	NO	YES	EXCLUDED The cup is reusable

Differentiation between certain (related) product categories

- The consumption mode of the product contained and the consistency of the product contained in a receptacle plays a decisive role in the distinction between food containers and beverage containers, beverage bottles and cups for beverages.
- The unit in which the quantity of the food or beverage product is expressed. In general, beverages are expressed in volume.
- The design characteristics of the container may be specific to the content.

Illustrative examples to differentiate between food containers and beverage containers			
Single-use plastic food container		Single-use plastic beverage container	
Plastic multilayer pouch containing fruit puree (150 ml)		Plastic multilayer pouch containing fruit juice (150 ml)	
Plastic container containing yogurt (100g)		Plastic container containing drinkable yogurt (150 ml)	
		Milk carton (500 ml)	

Differentiation between certain (related) product categories

- The intended use of single-use plastic cups for beverages and whether they are intended for food or beverages is typically known by the initial distributor or the filler of the cups.
- If at the time of placing on the market it is unclear whether a product is a beverage cup or a food container, as it can be the case for certain containers sold in retail and wholesale stores, the manufacturer must comply with the requirements of the Directive for both types of products.

Containers sold in retail and wholesale stores


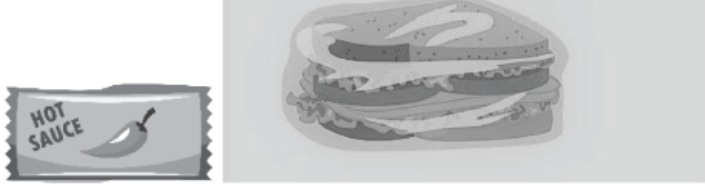


Key elements to distinguish between beverage containers, beverage bottles and cups for beverages

Illustrative examples of beverage containers, beverage bottles, and cups for beverages		
Beverage containers	Beverage bottles (part of beverage containers)	Cups for beverages (not part of beverage containers)
Receptacles with a capacity of up to 3 litres, used to contain beverages (includes also beverage bottles)	Rigid beverage containers with a narrow neck or mouth and a capacity of up to 3 litres, including their caps and lids, used to contain beverages	Typically round, usually bowl-shaped drinking vessels with or without a cover or a lid, sold empty or containing beverages



Key elements to distinguish food containers from packets and wrappers

Illustrative examples to differentiate between single-use plastic food containers and packets and wrappers	
Single-use plastic food container	Single-use plastic packet and wrapper
The container is made fully or partly from rigid material containing plastic	The container is made from flexible material containing plastic
	

Key elements to distinguish plates from food containers

Illustrative example to differentiate between food containers from plastic plates



Single-use plastic food container	Single-use plastic plate
<p>Indicators indicating that the receptacle is a food container:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Receptacles such as boxes sold with or without a lid — Able to contain food — May facilitate transport of food — Receptacle usually sold with printed information regarding contents, ingredients and often product weight 	<p>Indicators indicating that the receptacle is a plate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Dish sold without a lid, regardless of whether it is covered e.g. by foil or film, at the point of sale — Used to serve or eat food from, but presence of food is not required at the moment of purchase — While being predominantly flat, typically it has a slightly bevelled or raised perimeter to stop food rolling or spilling off it — Printed information including contents, ingredients or weight are usually not present.



Lightweight plastic carrier bags

- **Lightweight plastic carrier bags** mean plastic carrier bags with a wall thickness **below 50 microns**.
- **Very lightweight plastic carrier bags** mean plastic carrier bags with a wall thickness **below 15 microns**.
- *Product design characteristic:*
 - 1) *wall thickness below 50 microns*
 - 2) *not purposely designed, conceived and placed on the market to be re-used*
- The Directive **covers all lightweight plastic carrier bags**.
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Type of plastic carrier bag	General criteria		Product-specific criteria	Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Lightweight plastic carrier bag	
Lightweight plastic carrier bag supplied to consumer at point of sale (wall thickness below 50 microns)	YES	YES	YES	Included
Very lightweight plastic carrier bag supplied to consumer at point of sale (wall thickness below 15 microns)	YES	YES	YES	Included
Thicker plastic carrier bag (wall thickness above 50 microns)	YES	NO	NO	EXCLUDED Not lightweight carrier bag, and therefore out of the scope of the Directive
Waste collection bags made of plastic	YES	YES	NO	EXCLUDED Not 'carrier bag' and, therefore, out of the scope of the Directive

Cotton bud sticks

- **A cotton bud stick** typically refers to a short stick with a small amount (or wad) of cotton at one or both of its ends, often used for personal hygiene, especially for the cleaning of ears or the application of make-up.
 - *Cotton buds 33711410-4*
- The Directive does not provide for a product definition for cotton bud sticks.
- *Product design characteristic:*
 - 1) *thickness of the stick*
 - 2) *non-cleanable buds*
- Cotton bud sticks as medical devices are excluded from the scope of the Directive.

Type of cotton bud stick	General criteria		Product-specific criteria			Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Non-durable stem	Non-cleanable buds	Not a medical device	
Plastic stemmed, double-tipped cotton bud stick	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Non-plastic stemmed cotton bud stick	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	EXCLUDED: Product does not contain plastic
Plastic stemmed, single-tipped specimen collection swab	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	EXCLUDED: Product intended for medical use
Plastic, reusable ear cleaning stick	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	EXCLUDED: Product intended for multiple use

Balloons and balloon sticks

- **Balloons**, except balloons for industrial or other professional uses and applications that are not distributed to consumers.
 - *Toy balloons and balls (37525000-4)*
- **Sticks** to be attached to and to support balloons, except balloons for industrial or other professional uses and applications that are not distributed to consumers, including the mechanisms of such sticks.
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- *Product design characteristic:*
 - 1) *seals, valves and closure mechanisms*
 - 2) *refillable*

Illustrative examples of different balloons and balloon sticks				
Types of balloons; balloon sticks	General criteria		Product-specific criteria	Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Intended for domestic use	
Single-use latex balloons for domestic use or application	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Single-use mylar or foil balloons for domestic use or application	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Single-use plastic balloon sticks for domestic use	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Reusable, plastic inflatable toys and 'selfie-frames' including resealable valve	YES	NO	YES	EXCLUDED: Product intended multiple use
Reusable plastic balloon stands	YES	NO	NO	EXCLUDED: Product intended multiple use
Balloons for industrial uses and applications e.g. hot-air balloon, weather balloon.	YES	NO	NO	EXCLUDED: Product intended for professional or industrial use

Sanitary towels (pads), tampons, and tampon applicators

- The Directive does not provide for definitions for sanitary towels (pads), tampons and tampon applicators in the scope of the Directive.
- *Generic characteristics:*
 - 1) *intended to be disposed of after single use*
 - 2) *composed of multiple material layers*
- *Product design characteristic:*
 - 1) *not washable or reusable multiple times*

Type of sanitary towels, tampons and tampon applicators	General criteria		Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	
Sanitary towel, tampon and tampon applicator which contains plastic includes all categories of sanitary towels regardless of the shape, size, thicknesses and absorbency level containing plastics and intended to be disposed of after use	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Sanitary towels (including panty liners), or tampons which do not contain plastic	NO	YES	EXCLUDED: No plastic contained in the product
Reusable (washable) menstrual products such as washable cloth pads, reusable menstrual cup (alternative to tampon), period underwear (washable panty with integrated absorption pad)	NO/Washable pads that do not contain plastic YES/Reusable tampons, tampon applicators, and pads may contain plastic (e.g. clip for washable cloth pads)	NO	EXCLUDED: Products are not single-use

Wet wipes

- Wet wipes, i.e. pre-wetted personal care and domestic wipes. Industrial wet wipes are excluded.
- **Personal care**
- *Baby wipes, cleansing wipes for skin (including hands and body), disinfection wipes for hands, including if provided to consumers in aircrafts, airports, trains or other venues, facial/cosmetic wipes (e.g. facial masks or 'sheet masks', face cleaning/make-up removal wipes), intimate care wipes, toilet tissue wipe*
- **Domestic use wet wipes**
- *Household cleaning wipes used to remove stains and clean surfaces such as floors, bathrooms, kitchens, furniture, windows, TV and computer screens, etc., disinfection wipes intended for domestic use, including if provided to consumers in aircrafts, airports, trains or other venues, spectacle (eye glasses) cleaning wipes, car wipes intended for domestic use, pet wipes intended for domestic use*

Examples of different types of wet wipes					
Type of wet wipes	General criteria		Product-specific criteria		Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Pre-wetted	Personal care or domestic use	
Wet wipe which contains plastic	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Wet wipe which is made of viscose or lyocell (regenerated cellulose) and does not contain polyester or other plastics	NO	YES	YES	YES	EXCLUDED: Product is not wholly or partly made of plastic
Pre-wetted wipe (e.g. which can be indicated on product packaging as follows: 'pre-moistened towelettes' or 'pre-wetted')	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Dry wipe (e.g. not pre-wetted before placed on the market, can also be indicated on product packaging as follows: 'skin cleansing dry wipes')	YES	YES	NO	YES	EXCLUDED: Product is not 'pre-wetted'
Personal care wet wipe (e.g. which can be indicated on product packaging as follows: 'makeup-removal wet wipes' or 'Baby wipes')	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Domestic use wet wipe (e.g. which can be indicated on product packaging as follows: 'Multipurpose household cleaning wipe')	YES	YES	YES	YES	INCLUDED
Industrial wet wipe (e.g. wet wipes used in industry for cleaning machines)	YES	YES	YES	NO	EXCLUDED: Product is considered to be an industrial wet wipe
Professional use wet wipe (e.g. medical/healthcare wipes sold through professional business-to-business distribution channels and intended for use by healthcare professionals)	YES	YES	YES	NO	EXCLUDED: Product is not intended for domestic use

Tobacco products with filters, filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products

- Tobacco products with filters and filters marketed for use in combination with tobacco products.
- Product specific criteria:*
 - The product is a tobacco product, and the product contains a filter: e.g., a cigarette or cigar*
 - A Product is a separate filter for use with tobacco products: e.g. a filter tip or mini filter*

Type of tobacco product or filter	General criteria		Product-specific criteria	Included in or excluded from the scope of the directive (fulfilment of all general and product-specific criteria?)
	Plastic	Single-use	Tobacco product with filter or filter marketed for use in combination with tobacco products	
Cigarette or cigar with filter containing plastic	YES	YES	YES	Included
Separate single-use filters containing plastic	YES	YES	YES	Included
Electronic cigarette or vape products, including plastic or non-plastic filters	YES	NO	NO	EXCLUDED: Product is intended for multiple use; product does not contain tobacco
Electronic device to be used with heated tobacco product including single-use filter containing plastic	YES	YES (the filter)	YES	Included: While the electronic device is intended for multiple use, the tobacco and the filters are single-use
Loose tobacco e.g. for use in a pipe or hand-rolled cigarette without filter containing plastic	NO	YES	NO	EXCLUDED: Product is not made wholly or partly of plastic; product does not contain a filter



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