

WHAT IMPACT WILL THE FORTHCOMING EUROPEAN PACKAGING REGULATION (EU-VERPACKV) AND THE GERMAN PACKAGING ACT (VERPACKG) HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ON POTENTIAL COMPANIES AFFECTED BY THEM?

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ABSTRACT

This article analyses the effects of the European Packaging Regulation and the amendment to the Packaging Act on the economic development of companies and highlights the benefits for the environment. The analysis shows that the Packaging Act requires manufacturers of packaging filled with goods, as well as manufacturers (distributors) who place service packaging on the market for the first time, to register with the “Central Packaging Register” and, if necessary, obtain a license to participate in the system. Retail transport packaging is only subject to registration if it is not intended for private final consumption. The draft EU Packaging Regulation provides for measures such as the restriction of hazardous substances, the compostability of tea and coffee bags and the promotion of reusable systems in order to reduce the amount of packaging waste by at least 15% by 2040. Efficient resource utilisation and high-quality recycling can save costs and recover valuable raw materials, which increases competitiveness and creates jobs. The Packaging Ordinance also helps to secure the supply of raw materials by reducing dependence on imports. This leads to an overall more sustainable economy and reduces the CO₂ footprint. As a result of the Packaging Act, the recycling targets for packaging made from various materials were met or exceeded in 2022. In particular, 67.5% of plastic packaging was mechanically recycled, 4.5 percentage points above the legally stipulated minimum percentage. However, there are still problems with the recyclability of composite packaging, as not all of it can be fully recycled.

Keywords: Packaging CO₂, Registration, EU/Germany Agreement, Economy.