



What does the Packaging Ordinance govern?

According to the Austrian Packaging Ordinance (VVO – BGBl. II NR. 184/2014) companies, that make packaging available to the market, are required to follow environmental laws. This ordinance covers EU-guidelines regarding waste prevention, recycling and circular economy. The goal is to reduce packaging waste, protect the environment and use resources sustainably.

The Packaging Ordinance covers the collection, reprocessing and licensing of packaging products. Categories include among others:

- **Household Packaging** (e.g. Sales packaging for consumers)
- **Commercial Packaging** (e.g. for wholesale and industrial use)
- **Transport Packaging** (e.g. Pallets and strapping tape)
- **Packaging as an article** (e.g. empty boxes, sold as is)
- **Other Packaging**

Differing duties apply to the above mentioned categories regarding the participation in a collection- and recycling-system within Austria.

How does the system work?

Affected companies have to proof that their goods are properly licensed – either through fee-based participation in a collection- and recycling-system or through the upstream supplier by use of a legal declaration (RvE-“Rechtsverbindliche Erklärung”). In case that the company has no office within Austria, an authorized representative within Austria can be chosen that carries out the necessary procedures.

What is an “RvE” (legal declaration)?

According to §10, 4 VVO the legal declaration is a recognized document for the licensing through another level in the supply chain. This document needs to be updated on a yearly basis or upon substantial changes. The RvE has to include:

- Name of the company
- Name of the collection- and recycling-system
- Licensing category according to the Packaging Classification Regulation
- Timeframe of licensing
- Degree of participation (amount, usually in kilograms)

Through this legal declaration transparency towards authorities and legal compliance is assured.