# EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR)

**Customers are increasingly asking how extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs may affect their businesses. This overview focuses on the potential implications for Stanpac's paperboard ice cream and food service packaging.**



## STANPAC'S APPROACH

Stanpac has monitored the continuing development and expansion of EPR programs for several years. Our objective is to develop products that meet the requirements of the states implementing these programs while offering customers practical, cost-effective packaging options. Because EPR programs are administered at the state level, requirements vary by jurisdiction.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Stanpac understands that, in most cases, the brand owner that introduces a product into the chain of commerce is responsible for submitting the required information to the organization appointed by the state to administer its EPR program. In the states that Stanpac has been monitoring, that organization is Circular Action Alliance (CAA).

## MATERIALS & FEES

Polyethylene (PE)-coated paperboard is currently the most common material used for ice cream and food service packaging. State agencies and CAA seek to reduce plastic in packaging, increase packaging recyclability, and encourage the use of recycled content. Under these programs, the producer—the organization that introduces the product into the chain of commerce—pays the applicable fees. Uncoated paper is generally assessed at a lower rate than coated material. For example, Oregon's established fees as of September 2026 are $0.05 per pound for uncoated paper and $0.34 per pound for PE-coated paper.

# HOW STANPAC IS RESPONDING

- Stanpac is a member of the Poly Coated Paper Alliance and the Foodservice Packaging Institute. These organizations are conducting studies and working with states and CAA to demonstrate that PE-coated paper can be recycled at commercial volumes in most paper recycling facilities. Their objective is to support the acceptance of PE-coated materials in more curbside recycling programs.
- Stanpac's poly-coated ice cream cups have received recyclability certification from Western Michigan University, a widely recognized organization specializing in recycling and composting certification. Stanpac is working to obtain the same certification for its PE-coated lids.
- 30% post consumer fiber cups have successfully been trialed in both our ice cream packaging and food service packaging. This provides an opportunity to meet some states criteria of adding recycled materials to your packaging.
- Stanpac has developed and introduced a dispersion barrier-coated (DBC) cup and lid that hold recyclable, industrially compostable, and plastic-free certifications in Europe and Asia. The cup and lid have also received recyclability certification from Western Michigan University. Stanpac and the paperboard manufacturer believe CAA would classify this product as uncoated paper; however, to Stanpac's knowledge, no brand has yet submitted it for acceptance as mixed paper.
- Stanpac has successfully trialed a compostable coated product that could be submitted for certification. Additional details are available in our information sheet on the certification process for recyclable and compostable packaging.

# NEXT STEPS & RESOURCES

In summary, EPR requirements remain fragmented across jurisdictions. In many cases, processes for registering products, determining applicable fees, and identifying packaging improvements that may reduce recycling fees are complex, unclear, or not yet established. We will continue to monitor the introduction of these systems and will work to ensure that we have the most suitable solutions for your packaging requirements.

We are happy to provide technical specs for our packaging products to assist brand owners with the calculations required by States and their agencies.

**As regulations are ever changing these links should provide the most current information:**

**CAA's Producer Resource Center** **CAA's Producer Policies**

Information available includes:

- Registration and reporting
- Producer policies
- Key dates and producer actions
- Payment and producer portals
- Fee-setting explainer and infographic
- Events and contacts

Individual state information and fee schedules can be found by selecting the state under "States" which will have a link to the fee schedule if available.

i.e. Select "States", then "Oregon" - https://circularactionalliance.org/oregon
Under "Oregon" click on "2027 OR Fee Schedule" then on "Download the 2027 Oregon Fees Schedule"