

Explanation of PPWR Articles 5 to 12

The following articles of the PPWR have the greatest impact on the floriculture sector.

Article 5: Substances of concern

The use of harmful chemicals such as PFAS is prohibited. The total concentration of lead, cadmium, mercury and chromium-6 in packaging must not exceed 100 mg/kg.

Article 6: Recyclability

From 2030 onwards, all packaging must be recyclable and meet strict design for recycling criteria. The EU is introducing a recycling score (A–C) based on how well packaging can be collected, sorted and recycled:

A: ≥95% recyclable

B: ≥80%

C: ≥70%

Packaging below 70% will be banned from 2030.

From 2035, the requirement for “recycling at scale” will also apply: at least 55% of the weight must actually be recycled in the EU.

From 2038, class C packaging (<80%) will also disappear, leaving only A and B.

Article 7: Minimum use of recycled material

The use of post-consumer recycled material (PCR) will be mandatory for all plastic packaging from 2030. For non-food packaging, such as floriculture packaging, the requirement is a minimum of 35% recycled material.

Articles 8 and 9: Biobased and compostable packaging

Within two years, targets and new guidelines will be drawn up for biobased packaging. Compostable packaging must be clearly labelled.

Article 10: Minimisation

From 2030 onwards, packaging must be designed in such a way that its weight, volume and number of layers are reduced to a minimum. This means no more unnecessary layers of packaging or empty spaces in packaging (maximum 50% empty space in packaging).

Article 11: Reusable packaging

The EU sets minimum targets for reusable packaging, such as transport packaging:

- At least 40% of all transport packaging used within the EU must be reused.
- Transport packaging that remains within a single EU country must be fully (100%) reusable.
- Cardboard boxes are exempt.

Article 12: Labelling

All consumer packaging will have a harmonised label with a pictogram providing information about the material composition. Labels will also be placed on waste bins to encourage correct sorting. For reusable packaging, a QR code must provide insight into reuse.