



# Plastic Packaging Tax: April 2027 changes and consultation update

We are writing to update you on recent developments and changes relating to Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT).

Two changes to PPT have already been announced and will take effect from **1 April 2027**. We are also currently consulting on a separate proposal that could affect how businesses evidence mechanically recycled plastic in future. This update explains the difference between these confirmed changes and the proposal under consultation, and highlights actions businesses may wish to consider ahead of April 2027.

## Changes taking effect from 1 April 2027

### Acceptance of a mass balance approach (MBA) for chemically recycled plastic

**From 1 April 2027**, businesses will be able to use a MBA for calculating the chemically recycled plastic within their packaging contributing towards the 30% recycled content for PPT where it is covered by an appropriate certification scheme.

The use of this method will be subject to meeting minimum requirements for certification schemes covering the use of this material which will be set out in legislation and guidance. Further detail will be published in guidance in the coming months.

The change only applies to chemically recycled plastic manufactured in the UK or imported into the UK on or after 1 April 2027. It remains not possible to use a MBA to account for mechanically recycled plastic for PPT in any circumstances. Businesses using mechanically recycled plastic must continue to obtain evidence of its source and inclusion, as set out in [the guidance](#).

### Removal of pre-consumer waste as a source of recycled material for PPT

**From 1 April 2027**, all recycled plastic used to make up the 30% recycled content threshold for exemption from PPT must come from post-consumer waste. Pre-consumer material can continue to be used in plastic packaging and often represents best use of materials. However, from 1 April 2027, it will no longer be classed as recycled plastic for the purpose of PPT.

This change will apply to all packaging components manufactured in the UK or imported into the UK from 1 April. Any existing stocks intended to support PPT recycled content claims should be used before the new rules take effect.

# Consultation on potential certification for mechanically recycled plastic packaging

On 18 May, the government published a consultation on the **potential introduction** of a new requirement for mechanically recycled plastic packaging to be subject to mandatory certification in order for businesses to claim an exemption from PPT.

This consultation considers whether mandating certification would be a proportionate and effective way for businesses to evidence mechanically recycled content when claiming relief from PPT. It explores whether introducing a certification requirement could improve the robustness of recycled plastic claims and help address risks of error or fraud, alongside wider industry concerns.

The consultation specifically seeks views on the prevalence of fraud, impacts on businesses to which this requirement would apply, how the requirement should operate in practice and potential timings for implementation.

This consultation will be open for responses until **10 August 2026**. You can access the consultation document and the online response form using the link below:

[Plastic Packaging Tax — mechanically recycled plastic packaging](#)

## Stay Informed

If you are aware of a business that would like to receive future updates on Plastic Packaging Tax, including consultations and guidance, please email [teamindirecttaxdesign@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:teamindirecttaxdesign@hmrc.gov.uk) to be added to this mailing list.