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Packaging Compliance

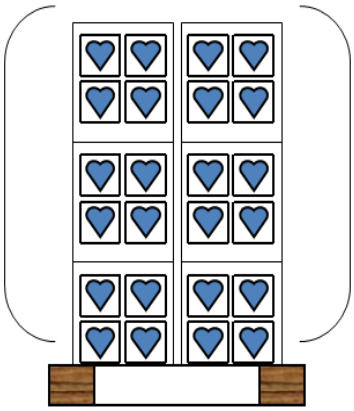
# Packaging Regulations - How much is 50 tonnes?

One of the threshold requirements under the Packaging Regulations is that a business handles more than 50 tonnes of packaging in the previous calendar year. This can seem like a lot but it is surprising how quickly that threshold can be exceeded. Below is a table of different material types and the number of units that would equate to 50 tonnes. This should provide a rough guide to compare to actual sales volumes and indicate whether your business has gone over the 50 tonne threshold.

| Packaging material | Avg. Weight | Units per Tonne | Units per 50 Tonne | Min. Units sold per week |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Paper/card** | | | | |
| Shoe box | 337g | 2,968 | 148,400 | 2,854 |
| Small carton 300x230x255mm - single wall | 194g | 5,155 | 257,731 | 4,956 |
| Medium carton 305 x 305 x 305mm- single wall | 480g | 2,083 | 10,417 | 2,003 |
| Large carton 470x400x517mm - single wall | 674g | 1,484 | 74,184 | 1,427 |
| **Glass** | | | | |
| Glass bottle 50ml | 80g | 12,500 | 625,00 | 12,020 |
| Glass bottle 200ml | 195g | 5,128 | 256,410 | 4931 |
| Glass bottle 330ml | 218g | 4,598 | 229,885 | 4,421 |
| Glass bottle 500ml | 295g | 3,390 | 169,492 | 3,259 |
| Glass bottle 700ml | 443g | 2,260 | 112,994 | 2,173 |
| **Plastic** | | | | |
| 1l plastic drinks bottle | 34g | 29,412 | 1,470,600 | 28,280 |
| Plastic carrier bags | 8g | 125,000 | 6,250,000 | 120,192 |
| Avg. shrink wrap surrounding pallet | 220g | 4,545 | 227,272 | 4,370 |
| **Steel** | | | | |
| Beverage can steel 30cl | 29g | 34,483 | 1,724,150 | 33,157 |
| Beverage can aluminium 40cl | 38g | 26,316 | 1,315,800 | 25,304 |
| **Wood** | | | | |
| EUR Pallet Wooden (standard) 120x80 cm | 25kg | 40 | 2,000 | 39 |

## Levels of Packaging

There are three layers of packaging. Any person who unwraps a level of packaging is the end user of this packaging. It is important to understand which level of packaging your company performs its activities on as this will affect your total obligation tonnage and so your total cost.



### Primary (sales) Packaging

The wrapping or containers handled by the consumer or end user. Protects and advertises the product.
(e.g. a foil wrapper around a chocolate bar)

### Secondary (group) Packaging

Larger cases or boxes that are used to group quantities of primary packaged goods for distribution and for display in shops.
(e.g. the cardboard box around a large number of foil wrapped chocolate bars)

### Tertiary (transit) Packaging

The containers that are used to gather the groups into larger loads for transport, which facilitates loading and unloading of goods.
(e.g. wooden pallets and plastic wrapping)