

APCO packaging compliance

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APCO packaging compliance

APCO overview

current APCO packaging targets

In 2018, Australia made a significant commitment by establishing the ambitious **2025 National Packaging Targets**.

These Targets are not just goals but a new sustainable pathway that will fundamentally change how we manage packaging in our country.

The National Packaging Targets apply to all packaging made, used, and sold in Australia.



APCO 2025 National Packaging Targets



APCO Website

The four Targets are:



100%

100% of packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025

70%

70% of plastic packaging will be recycled or composted by 2025

50%

50% of average recycled content included in packaging by 2025

2025

The phase-out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging by 2025

upcoming changes to APCO targets

To drive further industry action, APCO (Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation) has set a new recycled content Target for plastic packaging (20%).

APCO has also set material-specific targets for recycled content in plastic packaging made from:

- polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (30%)
- high-density polyethylene (HDPE) (20%)
- polypropylene (PP) (20%)

Additional information can be found in the **APCO 2030 Strategic Plan**.



APCO 2030 Strategic Plan



**APCO has set a new recycled content
Target for plastic packaging**

APCO packaging compliance

keeping up with compliance

our commitment to your business

Norwood – a member of APCO since 2019 to improve packaging sustainability – is here to help your business navigate APCO compliance.

In the coming years, APCO compliance will become mandatory for all businesses that supply products with packaging. In the green life industry, this applies to labels, pots and stakes. It will also require annual reporting on what is supplied by the grower "on market" as well as consumer-facing ARLs on labels.

While this might sound daunting, **Norwood is committed to helping our clients save money, reduce plastic waste and more importantly be APCO compliant** for the retailer while navigating the changes that are coming.

This document contains information on how your business can navigate those changes.

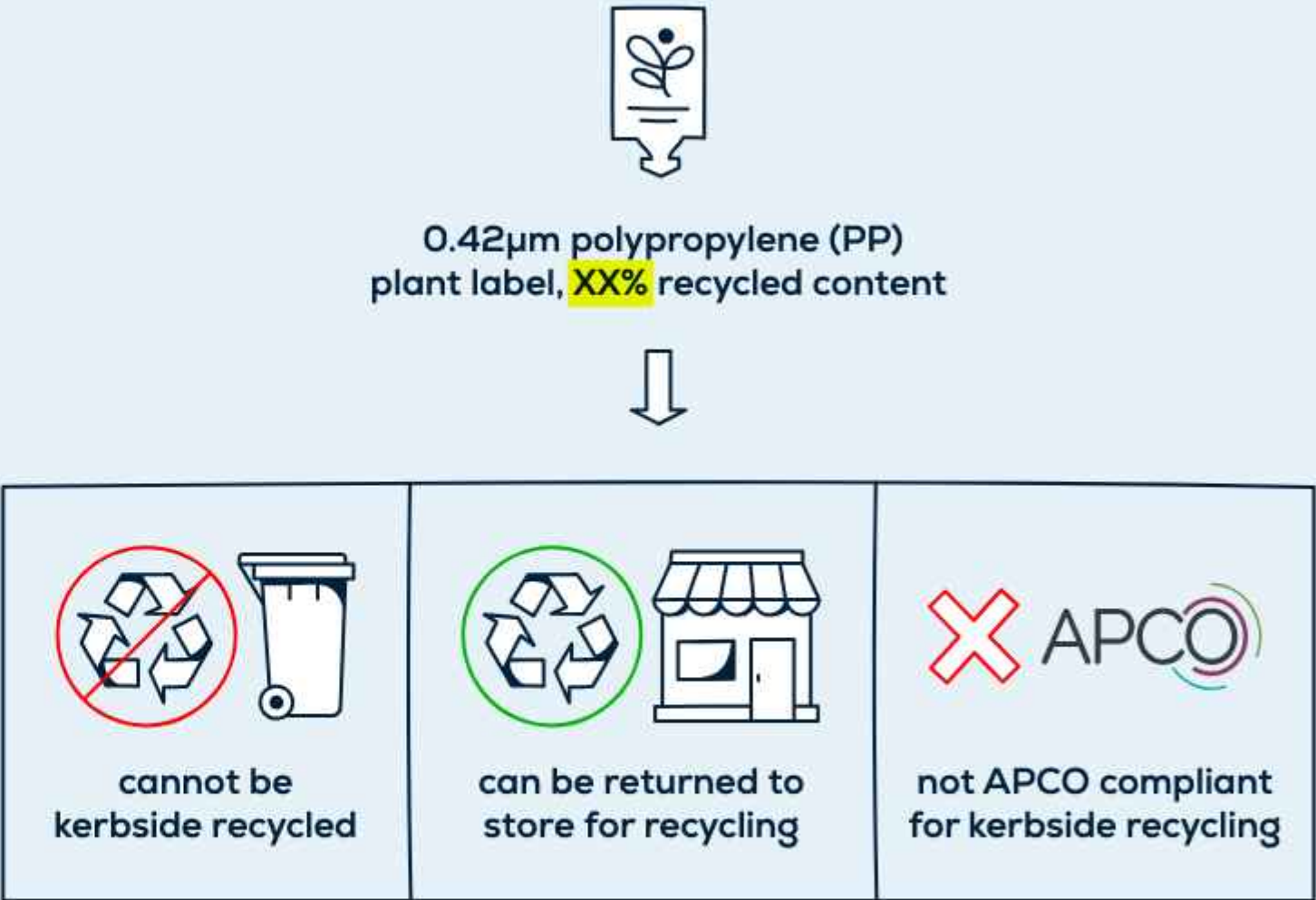


Norwood is here to help your business
navigate APCO compliance

the challenge

The way we currently produce plant labels does not meet APCO compliance for kerbside collection. They can still be returned to the store.

Our labels are produced on 0.42µm polypropylene (PP) with XX% recycled content, which is too light to be recycled when they are cut into shapes. They get caught up in the paper waste stream and landfill when placed in a home recycling bin. They also contain non-recyclable filler, which means they look fantastic to the consumer, but this trade-off means that they are less appealing to recyclers.



the solution

Through months of research, we have developed various options to create plant labels that meet the criteria for APCO compliance, and their mandatory addition of recycled content to our current plant labels.

We've created different options for you to choose from to suit your business needs.

For more details on each option, or about APCO's compliance measures, please contact APCO, your Norwood sales representative or adam.coyle@norwood.com.au.

✉ Email Adam Coyle

✉ Email APCO



We've developed various options to create plant labels that meet the criteria for APCO compliance

APCO vs ARL compliance

This document will refer to two types of compliance – APCO and ARL.

Companies will be required to be APCO compliant by 2026. ARL compliance is currently voluntary, but beneficial.

ARL is part of APCO since 2018.



About Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) Program



Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) Program FAQs



APCO

APCO refers to the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO). It is a national regulatory framework for packaging that has set a new recycled content Target for plastic packaging (see page 5).



ARL

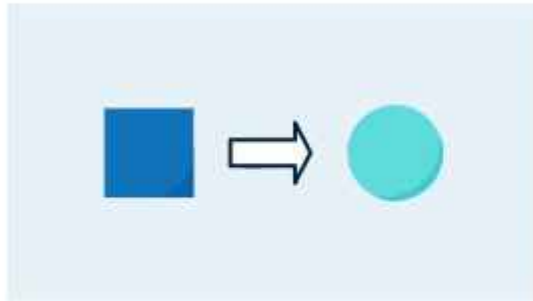
ARL refers to the voluntary Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) Program. The program clarifies the status of recyclability for each component of the package for the public to facilitate better recycling process.

This document utilises ARLs (as seen below) to indicate the recyclability of packaging items.



how to use this document

1.



Be aware of upcoming changes to APCO, and how they affect your business.

See page 5.

2.



Understand both APCO and ARL, and their labelling systems.

See page 10.

3.



Review our APCO compliant packaging options and consider how they best suit your business.

See pages 12–28.

4.



Get in touch with Norwood with any questions.

See page 31.

APCO packaging compliance

plastic options

all of our plastic options utilise
polypropylene (PP) labels and
are APCO compliant



plastic option 1

0.42µm polypropylene (PP) label

- 100% PP label – including 20% PCR (Post Consumer Recycled material) increasing yearly by 10%+ until 80% is reached
- Some small price variations are based on PCR availability
- Label shapes can stay the same
- APCO compliant
- ARL compliant
- Not kerbside recyclable
- ARL can be printed on both the pot and label for the consumer



plastic option 2a

0.56µm polypropylene (PP) label

- 100% PP label – including 20% PCR (Post Consumer Recycled material) increasing yearly by 10%+ until 80% is reached
- PP5 black plant pot (not kerbside recyclable)
- \$\$ Slightly higher cost due to the material thickness increase
- \$\$ Some small price variations are based on PCR availability
- ↑↑ Uses more material
- ✓ Label shapes can stay the same
- ✓ APCO compliant
- ✓ ARL compliant
- ✗ Not kerbside recyclable
- ✓ ARL can be printed on both the pot and label for the consumer



plastic option 2b

0.56µm polypropylene (PP) label

- 100% PP label – including 20% PCR (Post Consumer Recycled material) increasing yearly by 10%+ until 80% is reached
- PP5 coloured plant pot
- \$\$ Slightly higher cost due to the material thickness increase
- \$\$ Some small price variations are based on PCR availability
- ↑↑ Uses more material
- ✓ Label shapes can stay the same
- ✓ APCO compliant
- ✓ ARL compliant
- ✓ Kerbside recyclable
- ✓ ARL can be printed on both the pot and label for the consumer
- ✓ Best practise for consumer recovery

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plastic option 3

0.38µm polypropylene (PP) label

- 100% PP label – including 20% PCR (Post Consumer Recycled material) increasing yearly by 10%+ until 80% is reached
- PP5 coloured plant pot
- Uses less material than the 0.42 and 0.56 options
- Labels would need to be welded to the pot, this would need approval from APCO to be recycled as one item of packaging
- Pending APCO approval
- CapEx costs for the purchase of welding machinery, decreased material cost
- Label shapes can stay the same
- ARL compliant
- Kerbside recyclable
- ARL can be printed on both the pot and label for the consumer

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APCO packaging compliance

sticker option

our sticker options offer an alternative to polypropylene (PP) labels and are APCO compliant



sticker option 1a

PP5 sticker label

- 🔄 Alternative to PP label
- 📦 PP5 black plant pot (not kerbside recyclable) 💬
- \$\$ Can provide labour savings at the nursery
- \$\$ CapEx costs up front for the purchase of the sticker applicator
- \$\$ Comparable cost to a PP label
- 📦 Norwood could potentially supply pots and pre-stickered pots based on grower interest
- ⊖ Fold out sticker – once opened, it is difficult to re-stick
- ✓ APCO compliant
- ✓ ARL compliant
- ✗ Not kerbside recyclable

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sticker option 1b

PP5 sticker label

- 🔄 Alternative to PP label
- 📦 PP5 coloured plant pot
- 💰 Can provide labour savings at the nursery
- 💰 CapEx costs up front for the purchase of the sticker applicator
- 💰 Comparable cost to a PP label
- 📦 Norwood could potentially supply pots and pre-stickered pots based on grower interest
- ⊖ Fold out sticker – once opened, it is difficult to re-stick
- ✓ APCO compliant
- ✓ ARL compliant
- ✓ Kerbside recyclable



APCO packaging compliance

bio options

our bio option does not use plastic
and biodegrades, therefore bypassing
the need for APCO compliance



bio option

Compostify 100% plastic free,
biodegradable, plant pot and label

- Material??
- Printed biodegradable label using plant based inks, pending trial
- Completely home compostable*
- The cost is much higher
- Label shapes can stay the same
- Pending label testing in situ
- Due to the local waste streams, production must be offshore
- Injection moulding and sheet extrusion trials have been done

*Pending approval for FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) bins at home

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APCO packaging compliance

paper options

our paper options reduce plastic
usage and are either recyclable
or biodegrade



paper option 1

printed paper based, Biobar[™] water resistant coated pot

- Printed paper plant pot made of 80% pulp recovery and 20% bio coating
- ✓ 100% biodegradable
- ✓ Home compostable
- ✓ Suitable in every state and NZ
- ✓ A good option for a short turnaround



paper option 2

printed PaperPot® system

- Printed paper plant pot made of 80% pulp recovery and 20% LDPE coating
- ✓ Kerbside recyclable
- ✓ ARL compliant
- ✗ Not suitable for WA and NZ kerbside recycling laws
- ⌚ A good option for a short turnaround
- ⬡ Supported by OPAL



APCO packaging compliance

next steps

how you can prepare for upcoming APCO changes



1.



Consider which of our APCO compliant packaging options best suits your business.

See pages 12–28.

2.



Get in touch with Norwood with any questions.

See page 31.

3.



Notify Norwood of how and when you'd like to roll out changes to your packaging.

See page 31.

timeline



content needed

contact

got questions?

We're here to help your business navigate APCO compliance.

For questions, more details on the contents of this document, or about APCO's compliance measures, please contact **Adam Coyle**.



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Alternatively, you can contact APCO directly for questions and more details regarding compliance and the **APCO 2030 Strategic Plan**.



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thank you

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