Translation from Finnish
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish
Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Government Decree on Fishing Gear Containing Plastic

(1319/2022; amendments up to 1316/2025 included)

By decision of the Government, the following is enacted under the Waste Act (646/2011):

Section 1
Scope of application

This Decree lays down provisions on requirements concerning fishing gear containing plastic supplementing the Waste Act (646/2011) necessary for the implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment.

Section 2
Separate collection target for waste fishing gear

The producers of fishing gear containing plastic shall together ensure the separate collection for recycling of at least a quantity of waste fishing gear containing plastic equal to 10% by weight of the amount of fishing gear containing plastic placed annually on the market by the producers.

Section 3
General minimum requirements for reception of waste fishing gear

The producer of fishing gear containing plastic referred to in section 48, subsection 1, paragraph 11 of the Waste Act shall organise the reception of waste fishing gear containing plastic in such a way that the following minimum requirements for service level and accessibility are met:

1) the delivery of the waste to the reception point is free of charge and effortless;

2) taking account of the quantity of waste fishing gear generated, there is equal regional access to reception points across the country.

Section 4
Organisation of reception of different types of waste fishing gear

The producer shall organise at least 150 reception points for the separate collection of waste containing plastic generated from stationary fishing gear referred to in section 4, paragraph 15 of the Fishing Act (379/2015) and from other netting-based fishing gear, as well as from ropes and floats used in conjunction with such fishing gear. The producer may replace a reception point with a mobile reception point, pickup service or other equivalent collection arrangement that meets the general requirements laid down in section 3. The Finnish Supervisory Agency may grant an exemption from the requirements of this subsection if the producer sells its products exclusively to commercial fishers. (1316/2025)

The producer shall organise a mobile reception point, pickup service or other well-functioning collection arrangement for the separate collection of waste fishing gear from lure fishing, angling and ice fishing. The collection may be targeted separately and in different ways at re-usable, recyclable and environmentally harmful fishing gear. The seasonal nature of fishing may be taken into account when organising collection.

The producer shall organise the reception of aquaculture gear containing plastic by assigning to the holder and other deliverer of such gear reception arrangements that meet the general requirements laid down in section 3.

Section 5
Self-monitoring

The producer's plan for self-monitoring referred to in section 53a of the Waste Act shall contain:

1) an account of the compilation of the monitoring data referred to in section 6 of this Decree and an assessment of the reliability of the data and a plan for improving the reliability of the data;

2) an assessment of the fulfilment of the producer's cost responsibility referred to in section 46 of the Waste Act;

3) an account of the producers' payment contributions referred to in section 63a of the Waste Act and of the criteria for their adaptation as well as of their monitoring;

4) procedures for the regular reassessment and development of the payment contributions and the criteria for their adaptation referred to in paragraph 3 of this section;

5) a plan for the implementation and organisation of self-monitoring and for audits conducted to support self-monitoring.

Audits to support self-monitoring shall be conducted by an auditor who is an impartial third party independent of the producer, producer responsibility organisation and its owners. The auditor shall have the necessary knowledge, skills and other qualifications for the performance of the task. Audits may be conducted in multiple parts, taking account of the special expertise of the auditor, or included in another equivalent external audit of the activities of the producer responsibility organisation. If the producer has a certified management system, the audit may be incorporated into that system.

Section 6
Notification of monitoring data

By the end of June of each year, a producer or a producer responsibility organisation acting on behalf of the producers belonging to it shall in the summary based on record-keeping data referred to in section 54, subsection 2 of the Waste Act notify the Finnish Supervisory Agency of the following information on its activities during the previous year: (1316/2025)

1) the quantity in tonnes of fishing gear containing plastic placed on the Finnish market broken down into fishing gear falling under the different collection systems referred to in section 4 of this Decree;

2) the quantity in tonnes of fishing gear containing plastic separately collected in Finland broken down in accordance with the different collection systems;

3) the quantity in tonnes of fishing gear re-used, recycled or in other ways recovered or disposed of specified by treatment facility, and the name and location of the treatment facility;

4) an account of the organisation of reception referred to in section 4 of this Decree;

5) an account of the provision of information and advice referred to in section 51, subsection 1 of the Waste Act;

6) information on the measures and audits required in the plan for self-monitoring referred to in section 53a of the Waste Act.

Section 7
Compilation of data for monitoring and supervision

In order to monitor and supervise compliance with the obligations laid down in this Decree, the Finnish Supervisory Agency shall annually check and compile the monitoring data referred to in section 6. (1316/2025)

The Finnish Supervisory Agency shall report the data referred to in section 6, subsection 1, paragraphs 1 and 2 to the European Commission within 18 months from the end of the calendar year in respect of which the data is compiled. (1316/2025)

The data shall be reported in the format required by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/958 laying down the format for reporting data and information on fishing gear placed on the market and waste fishing gear collected in Member States and the format for the quality check report in accordance with Articles 13(1)(d) and 13(2) of Directive (EU) 2019/904 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Section 8
Payment contributions of producers

Provisions on criteria for the payment contributions of producers and their adaptation are laid down in section 63a of the Waste Act.

Administrative charges shall be determined in such a way that their share is not unreasonably high compared with the quantity of fishing gear placed on the market by the producer and with the payments arising from its waste management and other producer responsibility obligations.

Section 9
Obligation of an authorised representative to provide information

An authorised representative authorised by an operator established in another country that supplies fishing gear containing plastic to the Finnish market by means other than distance selling directly to end users shall, without delay, provide information about the authorisation it has received and its acceptance into a producer register or its joining a producer

responsibility organisation, as well as about any amendment or cancellation of the authorisation or acceptance to a producer that in the absence of the authorisation received would be responsible for the producer responsibility obligations for those products. If the above-mentioned producer on whose behalf the authorised representative carries out the producer responsibility obligations for the products concerned is a member of a producer responsibility organisation, the authorised representative shall, in addition, inform the producer responsibility organisation without delay of its authorisation and the date of the authorisation.

The provision of information referred to in subsection 1 above shall contain information on the provider of the authorisation and on the type, nature and quantity of the products placed on the market, and state how compliance with producer responsibility obligations has been organised. The producer responsibility organisation shall, in addition, be informed of who in the absence of the authorisation received would have been responsible for the producer responsibility obligations in respect of the said products.

Section 10
Application of a producer for acceptance into the producer register

The application of a producer for acceptance into the producer register referred to in section 101, subsection 1 of the Waste Act shall contain:

1) the name and contact details of the producer and the contact person;

2) the business identity code and European or national tax number of the producer;

3) information on the fishing gear containing plastic placed on the market by the producer and an estimate of its quantity in tonnes per year broken down in accordance with the way how the reception referred to in section 4 of this Decree is to be organised;

4) an account of agreements concerning the preparation for re-use and organisation of waste management and of the environmental permits and any management systems for environmental matters of the contractual partners;

5) a plan on the implementation of the obligation to provide information and advice referred to in section 51 of the Waste Act;

6) a list of the Member States to which the producer sells products by distance selling directly to users and the names of the authorised representative in those Member States;

7) the self-monitoring plan;

8) a declaration stating that the information provided is true;

9) the date on which the application was made.

In addition to the information referred to in subsection 1, the application of an authorised representative shall contain information on the provider of the authorisation and on the producers that in the absence of the authorisation would be responsible for the producer responsibility obligations in respect of the products to which the authorisation applies. In addition, the application shall contain a declaration stating that the authorised representative was appointed under a written authorisation in accordance with the provisions of section 66b, subsection 1 of the Waste Act.

Section 11
Application of a producer responsibility organisation for acceptance into the producer register

The application of a producer responsibility organisation for acceptance into the producer register shall contain:

1) information on the producer responsibility organisation and its activities equivalent to section 10, subsection 1, paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7–9 and subsection 2;

2) information on the fishing gear containing plastic placed on the market by the producers belonging to the producer responsibility organisation and an estimate of its quantity in tonnes per year broken down in accordance with the way how the reception referred to in section 4 of this Decree is to be organised;

3) the name, business identity code and sector of activity of each founder of the producer responsibility organisation;

4) the names and business identity codes of producers belonging to the producer responsibility organisation and the dates on which they joined the producer responsibility organisation;

5) the names and business identity codes of authorised representatives belonging to the producer responsibility organisation and the dates on which they joined the producer responsibility organisation as well as information on the provider of the authorisation and the producers that in the absence of the authorisation would be responsible for producer responsibility obligations in respect of the products which the authorisation concerns;

6) an account of the division of obligations between the producers and of how new producers can agree on the carrying out of producer responsibility with the producer responsibility organisation;

7) a list of the Member States to which a producer belonging to the producer responsibility organisation sells products by distance selling directly to users and the name of the authorised representative in those Member States;

8) a report on the sufficient financial arrangements of the producer responsibility organisation for the appropriate organisation of its activities.

Section 12
Notification of changes in activities

The notification referred to in section 106 of the Waste Act concerning substantial changes in activities and changes of members of the producer responsibility organisation shall be submitted within one month of any change.

Provisions on when the report on sufficient financial arrangements and the securing of activities and the action plan if the activities of the producer responsibility organisation substantially change shall be submitted are laid down in section 64 of the Waste Act.

Section 13
Entry into force

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2023.

The producer shall submit for the first time the information referred to in section 6, subsection 1, paragraph 1 by the end of June 2024 and the information referred to in paragraphs 2–6 of the said subsection by the end of June 2026.

Entry into force and application of the amending statutes

1316/2025:

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2026.