

Translation from Finnish

Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish

Ministry of the Environment, Finland

Government Decree on the Separate Collection and Recycling of Waste Paper

(270/2023; amendments up to 1312/2025 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 the obligation of the producer of paper products referred to in section 48, subsection 1, paragraph 5 of the Waste Act (646/2011) to organise the separate collection and recycling of discarded paper products (*waste paper*).

For the purposes of this Decree, *paper products* mean newspapers, magazines, direct-mail advertising, telephone directories, mail order catalogues, envelopes, office paper and other similar paper products but not, however, books.

Section 2

Separate collection and recycling of waste paper

The producers shall organise the separate collection and recycling of waste paper in such a way that each year a quantity of paper products equal to at least 85% by weight of all paper products placed on the market is recycled.

Section 3

Organisation of reception

To comply with its obligation laid down in section 49, subsection 1 of the Waste Act, the producer shall organise the reception of waste paper that is free of charge and effortless for holders of waste paper throughout the country for the separate collection of waste paper generated at properties located in areas comprising detached or attached houses and in sparsely populated areas. When organising the reception, the producer shall ensure that the following minimum requirements for the service level and accessibility are met:

- 1) the network of reception points covers the whole country in such a way that reception points are also available in areas other than those where the collection and management of waste are the most profitable;
- 2) reception points are available equally across areas, taking account of population density and the transport of waste paper from properties organised in the area in accordance with section 49, subsection 2 of the Waste Act;
- 3) reception points are located in conjunction with regularly used services, along commonly used routes or otherwise in such a way that they serve as well as possible properties located in areas comprising detached or attached houses and in sparsely populated areas.

Provisions on the general requirements concerning the establishment, maintenance and management of waste reception points are laid down in section 10 of the Government Decree on Waste (978/2021).

Provisions on the obligation of producers to organise the transport of waste paper from properties located in areas other than those comprising detached or attached houses and sparsely populated areas are laid down in section 49, subsection 2 of the Waste Act.

Section 4

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.

When determining administrative charges, the adaptation of payment contributions referred to in section 63a, subsection 2 of the Waste Act is not applied. In respect of administrative charges, derogation is allowed from the provision of subsection 63a, paragraph 1 of the Waste Act on making payments pro rata based on the quantity of products placed on the market by the producer. In such cases, administrative charges shall be determined in such a way that their share is not unreasonably high compared with the quantity of paper products placed on the market by the producer and with the payments arising from their waste management and other producer responsibility obligations relating to them.

Section 5

Provision of information on reception of waste paper

In the provision of information referred to in section 51, subsection 1 of the Waste Act, the producer shall through public information campaigns and other information provision ensure that the property holders and other holders of paper products receive the necessary information on the separate collection obligations and instructions concerning waste paper, available arrangements for separate collection and recycling, opportunities for reducing the quantity of waste, and the prevention of littering.

Provisions on the obligation of a producer to publish information on the fulfilment of its obligations concerning the separate collection and recovery of waste are laid down in section 54 of the Waste Act. Provisions on the obligation of a producer responsibility organisation to publish information on its owners and members, payments levied from producers and the general principles and procedures followed in their service procurement are laid down in sections 63 and 66 of the Waste Act.

Section 6

Obligation of an authorised representative to provide information

An authorised representative authorised by an operator established in another country that supplies paper products 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 paper products. If the above-mentioned producer on whose behalf the authorised representative carries out the producer responsibility obligations for the paper 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 for the said products.

Section 7

Report on financial arrangements and action plan on organising waste management

By the end of June each year, the producer responsibility organisation or the producer designated by the Finnish Supervisory Agency under section 64, subsection 2 of the Waste Act shall submit to the Finnish Supervisory Agency the report referred to in subsection 1 of the said section on its sufficient financial arrangements and an action plan on organising waste management. (1312/2025)

The report on sufficient financial arrangements shall include the adopted financial statement for the most recent financial period, the budget for the current financial period and, where necessary, an interim financial statement or a financial statement forecast. If the said documents cannot be submitted, other reliable proof shall be provided of sufficient financial arrangements.

Section 8

Application of a producer for acceptance into the producer register

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

- 1) the name, contact details and business identity code of the producer;
- 2) the name and contact details of the contact person;
- 3) information on the paper products placed on the market by the producer and an estimate of their quantity in tonnes per year;
- 4) information on the separate collection and reception point network, transport, pretreatment, recycling and other types of recovery and on disposal organised by the producer;
- 5) an estimate of the quantity in tonnes of waste paper included annually within the scope of the waste management organised by the producer;

- 6) an account of the provision of information about the reception of waste paper;
- 7) an account of agreements concerning the organisation of waste management and of the environmental permits and management systems for environmental matters of the contractual partners;
- 8) the self-monitoring plan;
- 9) the date on which the application was made;
- 10) a declaration stating that the information provided is true.

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 as well as on the producers that in the absence of the authorisation would be responsible for the producer responsibility obligations for 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 9

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 equivalent to information referred to in section 8, subsection 1, paragraphs 1, 2 and 4–10;
- 2) information on paper products placed on the market by the producers belonging to the producer responsibility organisation and an estimate of their quantity in tonnes per year;
- 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 the 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 the 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 who would otherwise 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) the report referred to in section 7 on the sufficient financial arrangements of the producer responsibility organisation for the appropriate organisation of its activities.

Section 10

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 11

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 notify the Finnish Supervisory Agency of the following information on its activities during the previous year: (1312/2025)

- 1) the quantity in tonnes of paper manufactured in or imported to Finland that is used for the manufacture of paper products placed on the Finnish market;

- 2) the quantity in tonnes of imported printed paper products;
- 3) the quantity in tonnes of separately collected waste paper in Finland;
- 4) the quantity in tonnes of waste paper that has been recycled, recovered as energy or treated in other ways specified by treatment facility and the name and location of the treatment facility;
- 5) the attained recycling rate and an account of the assessment and calculation principles for the data provided and an assessment of the reliability of the data;
- 6) an account of the provision of information about the reception of waste paper;
- 7) information on the measures and audits required by the self-monitoring plan;
- 8) information on any changes in the organisation of the reception laid down in section 3.

Section 12 (1312/2025)

Compilation of monitoring data

In order to monitor and supervise compliance with the obligations laid down in this Decree, the Finnish Supervisory Agency shall annually compile and check the monitoring data referred to in section 11 and estimate the quantity of waste paper generated and the recycling rate attained in Finland.

Section 13

Self-monitoring

The 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 11 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 section 4 of this Decree 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;
- 5) a plan for the implementation and organisation of self-monitoring and for audits conducted to support self-monitoring.

The auditor carrying out an audit referred to in section 53a of the Waste Act 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 14

Entry into force

This Decree enters into force on 15 March 2023.

This Decree repeals the Government Decree on the Separate Collection and Recycling of Waste Paper (528/2013).

Entry into force and application of the amending statutes

1312/2025:

This Decree enters into force on 1 January 2026.