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PACKAGING - REPORT ON CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGIES FOR LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS OF PACKAGING

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CEN REPORT

RAPPORT CEN

CEN BERICHT

CR 13910

November 2000

ICS

English version

Packaging - Report on criteria and methodologies for life cycle analysis of packaging

Emballage - Rapport sur les critères et méthodologies pour l'analyse du cycle de vie des emballages

Verpackung - Bericht über die Kriterien und Methodik von Ökobilanzen für Verpackungen

This CEN Report was approved by CEN on 20 April 2000. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 261.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

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Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 261 "Packaging", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2001, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2001.

This European Standard has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

This CEN report defines and describes how to apply Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) to packaging and distribution systems. The expression “Life Cycle Analysis”, applied in the EU Packaging Directive, is in this report considered as identical to the concept of “Life Cycle Assessment” in the ISO 14040 standards.

The report has been prepared by the CEN Working group, CEN/TC 261/SC 4/WG 1/TG 1, which has been considering the aspects of life cycle assessment specific to packaging, in order to fulfil the “Mandate 200 rev.3 to CEN for Standardisation and a study related to packaging and packaging waste”, requested by the EU Commission.

It has been decided to give this document the status of a CEN report. The report should be updated according to the development of ISO standards.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

Packaging is an integral part of modern society providing means for protection, presentation, information and distribution of products to industry, trade and consumers.

In 1994 the European Parliament and the European Council adopted a Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste, covering all types of packaging placed on the market in the European Community and all packaging waste, whether used or released at the industrial, commercial, office, shop, service, household level or at any other level, regardless of the material used.

The Directive aims to harmonise national measures concerning the management of packaging and packaging waste in order to, on the one hand, prevent any impact thereof on the environment of all Member States, as well as of third countries, or to reduce such impact, thus providing a high level of environmental protection, and, on the other hand, to ensure the functioning of the internal market and to avoid obstacles to trade, and the distortion and restriction of competition within the European Community.

Article 10 of the Directive states that the European Commission shall promote, in particular, the preparation of European standards relating to, among others :

¾ criteria and methodologies for life-cycle analysis of packaging.

The present report covers the work of CEN to meet that requirement.

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