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FEICA Guidance on obligations for the adhesive and sealant industry in respect to the PPWR

As manufacturer and as part of the supply chain

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Executive summary

In the packaging value chain, the adhesives and sealants industry may be deemed to hold different roles, each carrying distinct obligations. The **present guidance** aims to **support adhesive and sealant companies that fill packaging** with their products and subsequently place the packaged product on the Union market. In line with the **Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation¹ (herewith, “PPWR”)**, such companies will in many cases be regarded as **manufacturers** of packaging and are expected to assume the associated **compliance responsibilities**, starting from **12 August 2026**.

Against this background, the present **guidance provides concise, sector-specific orientation, in a regulatory framework that is still being implemented**. It summarises the current state of play and key Commission interpretations relevant for adhesives and sealants companies, supports clear and consistent communication with the value chain, **and helps avoid premature commitments in areas where PPWR requirements are not yet fully specified or depend on future implementing or delegated acts**.

The guidance is based on the PPWR, the Commission Guidance Notice on PPWR², the Commission PPWR FAQs³, and existing business practices. It reflects the versions of the Commission Guidance

¹ Cf. [Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation \(EU\) 2025/40](#)

² See [“Guidelines on the implementation of the Regulation for economic actors and Member States \(March 2026\)”](#)

³ See [“Frequently Asked Questions \(March 2026\) addressing practical issues raised by stakeholders since the adoption of the PPWR”](#)

Notice and FAQs available at the date of publication. As updated versions are expected, FEICA will review and, where appropriate, update this document accordingly.

In other cases, adhesive and sealant companies are regarded as **suppliers** when providing adhesives and sealants for use in packaging. For this role, FEICA has published a separate [Guidance](#), outlining the information that suppliers of packaging adhesives are expected to provide.

Introduction

Under Article 3(1)(13)(a) PPWR, a *manufacturer* is the economic operator that has packaging or a packaged product designed or manufactured under its name or trademark. The European Commission, in its Guidance Notice⁴, further explains that this role is not necessarily attributed to the one who physically produces the packaging, as two elements need to be considered: (1) the **role in the design or manufacturing** of packaging and (2) the **trademark** or the branding. Additionally, it indicates that there is **always only one manufacturer** in a supply chain within the meaning of the PPWR.

Manufacturer for sales and grouped packaging

The Commission Guidance Notice explains that, **in the case of sales⁵ and grouped⁶ packaging**, the manufacturer role is normally taken by the **filler**, i.e. the company that performs the final processing steps (such as filling, sealing or labelling) before the packaged product is placed on the EU market. This is often also the product brand owner. The Commission also emphasises that responsibility does not depend on who physically has/had produced the empty packaging. The determination of the manufacturer must nevertheless be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific contractual arrangements, the degree of control exercised over the packaging design and production process, and whether the company places packaging or packed products on the market under its own name or trademark.

Manufacturer for transport packaging

The Commission Guidance Notice also confirmed that, for **transport⁷ packaging**, the manufacturer will normally be the company which manufactures the transport or service packaging, unless such **packaging is clearly branded by the user of such packaging**, by carrying its name or **trademark** (Article 3(1), points (1)(d) and (7)). In this case, **the user is the manufacturer**.

It remains to be seen in future versions of the Guidance Notice how this would apply to transport packaging not **“in its final form⁸”**, and if this would become an additional criterion to further define which actor in the supply chain of transport packaging is the manufacturer.

Manufacturer's responsibilities and obligations

⁴ See “Guidelines on the implementation of the Regulation for economic actors and Member States (March 2026)”, page 8

⁵ According to PPWR Article 3(1) point 5, ‘sales packaging’ means packaging conceived so as to constitute a sales unit consisting of products and packaging to the end user at the point of sale’;

⁶ According to Article 3(1), point 6, ‘grouped packaging’ means packaging conceived so as to constitute a grouping of a certain number of sales units at the point of sale, irrespective of whether that grouping of sales units is sold as such to the end user or whether it serves as a means to facilitate the restocking of shelves at the point of sale or to create a stock-keeping or distribution unit, and which can be removed from the product without affecting its characteristics’.

⁷ According to Article 3(1), point 7, ‘transport packaging’ means packaging conceived so as to facilitate the handling and transport of one or more sales units or a grouping of sales units, in order to prevent damage to the product from handling and transport, but which excludes road, rail, ship and air containers.’

⁸ The Commission Guidance Notice mentions this wording on page 9; however, this term is not defined in the PPWR, nor in subsequent documents released by the European Commission.

As a result, **adhesives and sealants companies that fill sales and grouped packaging, or brand transport packaging with their trademark, are**, in many cases⁹, **considered manufacturers of packaging under PPWR** and are therefore responsible for:

- ensuring packaging **compliance with PPWR Articles 5–12**, in accordance with Article 15;
- performing the **conformity assessment** in accordance with Article 38; and
- drawing up and keeping the **EU Declaration of Conformity** (herewith, “DoC”) in accordance with Article 39.

With regards to the EU Declaration of Conformity, the PPWR clearly states¹⁰ that such document must be **drawn up by the manufacturer alone, who also has to keep it** (for five years for single-use packaging; for ten years for reusable packaging) and **make it available only to competent authorities in Member States upon their request within 10 days**.

Importantly, **the DoC itself is not required to be made public and, as a general rule, is not required to be proactively provided to customers**. This means that:

- the PPWR does not create a general transparency obligation towards competitors;
- value chain confidentiality is preserved; and
- business-sensitive information (including supplier identities and detailed formulations) does not need to be disclosed.

While this stands true, it is important to note that specific obligations apply in an importer¹¹ scenario. Under PPWR Article 18, **importers must hold a copy of the EU Declaration of Conformity at their disposal** (similar to manufacturers, importers have to keep the copy for five years for single-use packaging, ten years for reusable packaging) and ensure that the related technical documentation can be made available to market surveillance authorities upon request.

As a practical consequence, where a manufacturer established outside the EU places packaged products directly on the Union market via an importer, **the manufacturer will need to provide the importer with the relevant Declaration of Conformity, or its copy**. In such cases, the importer may also be the direct commercial customer.

Finally, in line with PPWR Article 39, the Declaration of Conformity must be made available **in the language or languages required by the Member State** in which the packaging is placed on the market or made available. Manufacturers should therefore anticipate potential language requirements when preparing and sharing Declarations of Conformity with importers.

Manufacturers’ communication with customers

A&S companies assuming the manufacturer role under PPWR should ensure consistent and controlled communication towards customers regarding PPWR compliance. In general, it is appropriate to share high-level compliance statements confirming that packaging meets applicable regulatory requirements. However, formal Declarations of Conformity (DoC), detailed composition data, or supplier-sensitive information should not be proactively shared, unless legally required or contractually agreed. Customer requests should be handled through defined internal

⁹ On 16 March 2026, FEICA reached out to the European Commission to present real life cases in which the A&S industry is unsure about which actor in the supply chain is the manufacturer. To this date, FEICA is waiting for an official guidance from the European Commission on such cases.

¹⁰ Cf. PPWR Article 15, Article 39 and Annex VII

¹¹ According to Article 3(1), point 17, ‘importer’ means any natural or legal person established within the Union that places packaging from a third country on the market’.

processes to ensure alignment with confidentiality obligations, intellectual property protection, and the company's role under PPWR.

Suppliers' responsibilities and obligations

In line with PPWR Article 16, **suppliers¹² shall provide manufacturers with all relevant information and documentation necessary to demonstrate conformity with articles 5 to 11 of the PPWR, including technical documentation** referred to in the PPWR Annex VII¹². Such information flows along the supply chain are an essential precondition for enabling manufacturers to fulfil their obligations under Articles 38 and 39 PPWR¹³.

Drawing up the Declaration of Conformity: information to be provided by 12 August 2026

The PPWR applies from **12 August 2026**. From that date, manufacturers must be able to demonstrate compliance with provisions which are already applicable, even though many detailed technical rules will only be specified later.

For manufactures, the most relevant information to be covered in the DoC by August 2026 concerns compliance with Article 5, in particular on:

- **heavy metals; and**
- Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (herewith, "**PFAS**") **in food-contact packaging**.

Heavy metals

Article 5(4) PPWR updates the limits on lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium in packaging compared to the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive¹⁴. The **sum of these four heavy metals must not exceed 100 mg/kg** in the overall packaging.

Manufacturers should:

- rely on supplier information and existing compliance declarations;
- document the absence of intentional addition; and
- keep records supporting compliance in their technical documentation.

PFAS in food-contact packaging

From 12 August 2026, **food-contact packaging placed on the EU market must comply with the PFAS concentration limits** set out in Article 5(5) PPWR. These provisions are intended to reduce human exposure to PFAS from food-contact materials and apply to the packaging as a whole, covering all materials and components, including coatings, inks and adhesives.

While **packaging used to place adhesives and sealants on the market is not categorised as food-contact packaging**, this section is nevertheless included to support understanding of the regulatory

¹² PPWR Annex VII, point two lists a series of elements that the technical documentation from suppliers must have, which are: (a) a general description of the packaging and its intended use; (b) conceptual design, manufacturing drawings and materials of components; (c) descriptions and explanations necessary for the understanding of the drawings provided under point (b) and the schemes and operation of the packaging; (d) a list of: (i) the harmonised standards, referred to in Article 36, applied in full or in part; (ii) the common specifications, referred to in Article 37, applied in full or in part; (iii) other relevant technical specifications used for measurement or calculation purposes; (iv) in the event of partly applied harmonised standards or common specifications, an indication of the parts which have been applied; (v) in the event of harmonised standards or common specifications not being applied, a description of the solutions adopted to meet the requirements referred to in point 1; (e) a qualitative description of how the assessments provided for in Articles 6, 10 and 11 have been carried out; and (f) test reports.

¹³ Cf FEICA Guidance "[EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation - Requirements for Packaging Adhesives](#)"

¹⁴ Cf. "European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste." 1994, Article 11.

framework and the type of information that may already be available along the supply chain. It is also intended to help companies anticipate and respond to questions from the adhesives and sealants value chain and from customers, given the increasing focus on PFAS across different regulatory contexts.

For companies acting as fillers of food contact packaging, the Commission has clarified that compliance is **assessed at the level of the complete packaging unit**. The legal text does not distinguish between intentionally added and unintentionally present PFAS, meaning that **overall PFAS content is relevant for the assessment**. In addition, the Regulation does not provide for an exhaustion of stocks, so food-contact packaging placed on the market after 12 August 2026 must meet the applicable limits.

At the same time, the Commission has recognised important practical and technical constraints. There is **currently no harmonised EU testing methodology** for determining PFAS content in food-contact packaging, and enforcement is therefore expected to rely on a **stepwise approach**, starting with total fluorine screening and followed, where appropriate, by more targeted analysis¹⁵. Further technical clarification and a harmonised testing methodology for PFAS in food-contact materials are still under development at EU level, with **completion expected by June 2026**.

Pending further clarification and the availability of harmonised methods, and in line with FEICA's existing guidance on packaging adhesives¹⁶, companies are advised to **rely on structured information exchange along the supply chain, in particular with raw material, formulation and packaging suppliers**. In practice, this includes **prioritising knowledge on intentionally added PFAS** in materials used for food-contact packaging and avoiding commitments or assurances that imply a level of analytical certainty beyond what is currently known, technically feasible or legally specified under the PPWR.

Drawing up the Declaration of Conformity: Information to be included at a later stage and applicable timelines

Several PPWR obligations will only become applicable once delegated or implementing acts are adopted. These include, in particular:

- **Recyclability and design-for-recycling requirements** (Article 6): expected to apply **from 2030 or 24 months after the delegated act** enters into force.
- **Recycled content targets for plastic packaging** (Article 7): applicable **from 2030 or three years after the date of entry into force of the implementing act** on calculation and verification of the percentage of recycled content recovered from post-consumer plastic waste recycled and collected within the Union referred to in Article 7(8).
- **Packaging minimisation requirements** (Article 10) and **empty space rules** (Article 24): applicable **from 2030**.
- **Reusable packaging requirements** (Article 11): while applicable from the date of entry into force of the Regulation (11 February 2025), specific criteria such as **minimum number of rotations** will have to be complied with depending on the **date specified in the implementing act** referred to in Article 11(2) and to **be adopted by 12 February 2027**.
- **Labelling requirements** (Articles 12): harmonised labelling, including information to support waste sorting, recycling and reuse, as well as digital labelling requirements, will apply in a

¹⁵ See "Guidelines on the implementation of the Regulation for economic actors and Member States (March 2026)", page 18

¹⁶ [Cf FEICA Guidance "EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation - Requirements for Packaging Adhesives"](#)

phased manner from 2028 onwards (or 24 months after the delegated act), once the relevant implementing acts are adopted and enter into force.

The EU DoC is understood as a living document. Until these provisions apply, manufacturers are **not expected to perform conformity assessment procedure or demonstrate compliance in the DoC**¹⁷, but should:

- clearly **distinguish between current obligations and future requirements**, recognising that PPWR provisions will apply progressively over time. During this phase-in period, different sets of requirements may co-exist before earlier obligations are replaced by the corresponding PPWR provisions – for instance, for recyclability requirements, until the date of application of Article 6(2)(a) of the PPWR on design for recycling, **manufacturers must comply only with the recyclability requirement in accordance with the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD) and the related harmonised standard EN 13430:2004** - Requirements for packaging recoverable by material recycling¹⁸.
- **monitor** regulatory developments; and
- **avoid presenting forward-looking statements as confirmed compliance.**

Recommendations

Based on Commission guidance and FAQs and industry practice, FEICA recommends that members:

- **clearly document their role as fillers and, where applicable, manufacturers** under PPWR;
- **establish structured information flows with** packaging and raw material **suppliers**, relying on Article 16 PPWR, because, as manufacturers, they would be the sole economic operators in the supply chain bearing legal responsibility for the packaging's compliance with the PPWR requirements¹⁹;
- **respond to customer requests in a role-consistent and proportionate manner, clearly distinguishing between information that suppliers can reasonably provide at material or formulation level and obligations that remain with the packaging manufacturer under the PPWR;**
- **keep DoCs concise, factual and limited to applicable requirements;**
- regularly **review and update internal documentation as PPWR implementation evolves;**
- keep old DoCs which has been updated archived and linked to the updated version due to change of data or extended regulatory demands.

FEICA will continue to monitor regulatory developments and update its guidance accordingly.

¹⁷ Cf PPWR Art. 39 (2) and European "Timeline of requirements – Important note", <https://ppwrcatoolkit-europen.eu/timeline-of-requirements/>

¹⁸ Harmonised [standards in the framework of the implementation of the European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC of 20 December 1994 on packaging and packaging waste](#) (OJ C 44 of 19 February 2005)

¹⁹ Cf. PPWR Guidance Notice, page 9

Annex I

Declaration of Conformity – how to build it over time



PPWR Declaration of Conformity A layered document - built over time

The Declaration of Conformity (DoC) shall progressively include information as required by the PPWR, in accordance with the timeline below.



Annex II

Layout of a PPWR Declaration of Conformity – illustrative examples

The PPWR does **not prescribe a mandatory template for a PPWR Declaration of Conformity**. However, based on Annex VIII and Commission practice, a DoC could include:

- identification of the manufacturer;
- description of the packaging and intended use;
- reference to applicable PPWR provisions;
- statements on compliance for applicable requirements; and
- date and signature.

A technical description should cover materials, components and functional elements, without unnecessary disclosure of confidential supplier details.

FEICA considers that the decision to draw up one or multiple DoCs remains with the manufacturer, depending on how packaging is defined and assessed in practice. In line with Commission PPWR FAQ²⁰, a **single DoC may be used** where different packaging formats share the same characteristics relevant for compliance with the applicable PPWR requirements and the packaged product. Conversely, **separate DoCs may be appropriate** where differences in packaging or use affect compliance with Articles 5–12 PPWR.

The **following non-binding examples** are provided for illustrative purposes only. They **show how a DoC may be structured** for different levels of packaging, in line with Articles 38 and 39 PPWR and Annex IX. The examples are intentionally generic and can be adapted to the specific packaging, materials and regulatory obligations applicable to each company. **They do not imply additional requirements beyond those set out in the Regulation.**

A. Primary (sales) packaging

EU declaration of conformity No (...)

1. Unique identification of the packaging

- Packaging name/Description (including purpose of use)
- SKU/Model/Batch Number

2. Identification of the manufacturer

Company name and address of the filler placing the packaged product on the EU market.

3. This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer.

4. Object of the declaration (identification of the packaging allowing traceability)

Description of the primary (sales) packaging (e.g. cartridge, tube, bottle) used to pack adhesive or sealant product, including:

- Materials and components where relevant,
- Specifications included in technical documents from suppliers (in annex to the Declaration).

5. The object of the declaration referred to point 4 is in conformity with the relevant Union harmonisation legislation

With this statement of conformity, the manufacturer declares that the primary packaging complies with the applicable requirements of Regulation (EU) 2025/40, specifying with which Articles, from

²⁰ See “Frequently Asked Questions (March 2026) addressing practical issues raised by stakeholders since the adoption of the PPWR”, page 43

Articles 5 to 12, the packaging is conformed, as applicable on the date of placing on the market. Reference to other Union acts can also be made.

6. References to the relevant harmonised standards or the common specifications used or references to the other technical specifications in relation to which conformity is declared

- List all harmonized standards, common specifications, or other technical specifications applied:
 - i. the harmonised standards, referred to in Article 36, applied in full or in part;
 - ii. the common specifications, referred to in Article 37, applied in full or in part;
 - iii. other relevant technical specifications used for measurement or calculation purposes;
 - iv. in the event of partly applied harmonised standards or common specifications, an indication of the parts which have been applied;
 - v. in the event of harmonised standards or common specifications not being applied, a description of the solutions adopted to meet the requirements referred to in point 1;
- a qualitative description of how the assessments provided for in Articles 6, 10 and 11 have been carried out;
- test reports.

7. Where applicable, the notified body ... (name, address, number) ... performed ... (description of intervention) ... and issued the certificate(s): ... (details, including the date of the certificate(s), and, where appropriate, information on the duration and conditions of validity).

8. Other information

If not done under section 5, manufacturers can, in this section, make reference to technical documentation and supplier information supporting compliance (e.g. heavy metals restriction, where applicable PFAS-related information).

9. Date and signature

Place and date of issue; name and signature of the person empowered to bind the manufacturer.

B. Secondary (grouped) packaging

EU declaration of conformity No (...)

1. Unique identification of the packaging

- Packaging name/Description (including purpose of use)
- SKU/Model/Batch Number

2. Identification of the manufacturer

Company name and address of the filler placing the packaged product on the EU market.

3. This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer.

4. Object of the declaration (identification of the packaging allowing traceability)

Description of the secondary (grouped) packaging (e.g. cardboard boxes) used to pack adhesive or sealant product, including:

- Materials and components where relevant,
- Specifications included in technical documents from suppliers (in annex to the Declaration).

5. The object of the declaration referred to point 4 is in conformity with the relevant Union harmonisation legislation

With this statement of conformity, the manufacturer declares that the primary packaging complies with the applicable requirements of Regulation (EU) 2025/40, specifying with which Articles, from

Articles 5 to 12, the packaging is conformed, as applicable on the date of placing on the market. Reference to other Union acts can also be made.

6. References to the relevant harmonised standards or the common specifications used or references to the other technical specifications in relation to which conformity is declared

- List all harmonized standards, common specifications, or other technical specifications applied:
 - i. the harmonised standards, referred to in Article 36, applied in full or in part;
 - ii. the common specifications, referred to in Article 37, applied in full or in part;
 - iii. other relevant technical specifications used for measurement or calculation purposes;
 - iv. in the event of partly applied harmonised standards or common specifications, an indication of the parts which have been applied;
 - v. in the event of harmonised standards or common specifications not being applied, a description of the solutions adopted to meet the requirements referred to in point 1;
- a qualitative description of how the assessments provided for in Articles 6, 10 and 11 have been carried out;
- test reports.

7. Where applicable, the notified body ... (name, address, number) ... performed ... (description of intervention) ... and issued the certificate(s): ... (details, including the date of the certificate(s), and, where appropriate, information on the duration and conditions of validity).

8. Other information

If not done under section 5, manufacturers can, in this section, make reference to technical documentation and supplier information supporting compliance (e.g. heavy metals restriction, where applicable PFAS-related information).

9. Date and signature

Place and date of issue; name and signature of the person empowered to bind the manufacturer.

C. Tertiary (transport) packaging²¹

EU declaration of conformity No (...)

1. Unique identification of the packaging

- Packaging name/Description (including purpose of use)
- SKU/Model/Batch Number

2. Identification of the manufacturer

Company name and address of the filler placing the packaged product on the EU market.

3. This declaration of conformity is issued under the sole responsibility of the manufacturer.

4. Object of the declaration (identification of the packaging allowing traceability)

Description of the tertiary (transport) packaging (e.g. wooden or plastic) used to pack adhesive or sealant product, including:

- Materials and components where relevant,
- Specifications included in technical documents from suppliers (in annex to the Declaration).

²¹ Please note that EPAL, the European pallet Association, released its own DoC template in 2025, please see for own information https://dk.epal-pallets.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ntg_package/Presse/EN/Supporting_material/PPWR-Conformity-declaration_EPAL-1_EN.pdf

5. The object of the declaration referred to point 4 is in conformity with the relevant Union harmonisation legislation

With this statement of conformity, the manufacturer declares that the primary packaging complies with the applicable requirements of Regulation (EU) 2025/40, specifying with which Articles, from Articles 5 to 12, the packaging is conformed, as applicable on the date of placing on the market. Reference to other Union acts can also be made.

6. References to the relevant harmonised standards or the common specifications used or references to the other technical specifications in relation to which conformity is declared

- List all harmonized standards, common specifications, or other technical specifications applied:
 - i. the harmonised standards, referred to in Article 36, applied in full or in part;
 - ii. the common specifications, referred to in Article 37, applied in full or in part;
 - iii. other relevant technical specifications used for measurement or calculation purposes;
 - iv. in the event of partly applied harmonised standards or common specifications, an indication of the parts which have been applied;
 - v. in the event of harmonised standards or common specifications not being applied, a description of the solutions adopted to meet the requirements referred to in point 1;
- a qualitative description of how the assessments provided for in Articles 6, 10 and 11 have been carried out;
- test reports.

7. Where applicable, the notified body ... (name, address, number) ... performed ... (description of intervention) ... and issued the certificate(s): ... (details, including the date of the certificate(s), and, where appropriate, information on the duration and conditions of validity).

8. Other information

If not done under section 5, manufacturers can, in this section, make reference to technical documentation and supplier information supporting compliance (e.g. heavy metals restriction, where applicable PFAS-related information).

9. Date and signature

Place and date of issue; name and signature of the person empowered to bind the manufacturer.

Contact

This document was developed by FEICA's Task Force on PPWR Compliance for Adhesives & Sealants Manufacturers.

FEICA Regulatory Affairs:

Maria Pulina (m.pulina@feica.eu)

FEICA is registered in the **EU Transparency Register** with ID no. **51642763262-89**

FEICA - Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry

Rue Belliard 40 box 10, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0) 2 896 96 00

info@feica.eu | www.feica.eu

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