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**Embalaža - Načrtovanje za recikliranje plastične embalaže - 3. del: Postopek za ocenjevanje zmožnosti sortiranja plastične embalaže**

Packaging - Design for recycling of plastic packaging - Part 3: Evaluation processes for the sortability of plastic packaging

Verpackung - Recyclingorientierte Gestaltung von Kunststoffverpackungsprodukten - Teil 3: Evaluierungsprozess zur Sortierfähigkeit von Kunststoffverpackungen

Emballages - Conception des emballages plastiques en vue de leur recyclage - Partie 3 : Processus d'évaluation de la triabilité des emballages plastiques

Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: **EN 18120-3:2026**

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13.030.50	Recikliranje	Recycling
55.020	Pakiranje in distribucija blaga na splošno	Packaging and distribution of goods in general
83.080.20	Plastomeri	Thermoplastic materials

**SIST EN 18120-3:2026****en,fr,de**

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN 18120-3**

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## Packaging - Design for recycling of plastic packaging - Part 3: Evaluation processes for the sortability of plastic packaging

Emballages - Conception des emballages plastiques en  
vue de leur recyclage - Partie 3 : Processus d'évaluation  
de la triabilité des emballages plastiques

Verpackung - Recyclingorientierte Gestaltung von  
Kunststoffverpackungsprodukten - Teil 3:  
Evaluierungsprozess zur Sortierfähigkeit von  
Kunststoffverpackungen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 9 February 2026.

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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

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**EN 18120-3:2026 (E)****European foreword**

This document (EN 18120-3:2026) 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a standardization request addressed to CEN by the European Commission. The Standing Committee of the EFTA States subsequently approves these requests for its Member States.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

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## Introduction

The EN 18120 series, under the general title *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging*, which aims via a series of guidelines and protocols to establish consistency and improvement for the design for recycling of household, industrial and commercial plastic packaging, consists of the following parts:

- *Part 1: Definitions and principles for design-for-recycling of plastic packaging*
- *Part 3: Evaluation processes for the sortability of plastic packaging*
- *Part 4: Guideline for PET bottles*
- *Part 5: Guideline for PET rigid packaging (except bottles)*
- *Part 6: Guideline for PE and PP rigid packaging*
- *Part 7: Guideline for PE and PP flexible packaging*
- *Part 8: Guideline for PS and XPS rigid packaging*
- *Part 9: Guideline for EPS packaging*
- *Part 10: Recyclability evaluation process for plastic packaging — Protocols for PET bottles*
- *Part 11: Recyclability evaluation process for plastic packaging — Protocols for PET rigid packaging (except bottles)*
- *Part 12: Recyclability evaluation process for plastic packaging — Protocols for PE and PP rigid packaging*
- *Part 13: Recyclability evaluation process for plastic packaging — Protocols for PE and PP flexible packaging*
- *Part 14: Recyclability evaluation process for plastic packaging — Protocols for PS and XPS rigid packaging*
- *Part 15: Recyclability evaluation process for plastic packaging — Protocols for EPS packaging*

Design for recycling guidelines are a common way of evaluating the compatibility with plastic-packaging collection, sorting and recycling which enables the use of secondary raw materials that are of sufficient quality when compared to the original material, in state-of-the-art facilities.

They provide guidance on the level of compatibility, defined as:

- green: packaging constituents and components with full compatibility with state-of-the-art collection, sorting and recycling;
- yellow: packaging constituents and components with limited compatibility with state-of-the-art collection, sorting and recycling;
- red: packaging constituents and components which are not compatible with state-of-the-art collection, sorting and recycling.

**EN 18120-3:2026 (E)**

The design for recycling guidelines provided in the EN 18120 series cover the design for recycling based on the knowledge available at the time of the development of this document and are representative of the state-of-the-art. They consider packaging waste collection, sorting and recycling, so that the recycled plastic can substitute primary raw materials in packaging application or other applications. Compliance with the design guidelines in the EN 18120 series does not guarantee that the recycled plastic quality will be fit for purpose for a specific targeted end application or compliant with applicable regulations.

Packaging recyclability is the combination of design of recycling, proven collection, sorting and recycling in practice.

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## 1 Scope

This document provides testing procedures and requirements on the evaluation processes for the sortability of plastic packaging with regard to compatibility of the design with state-of-the-art collecting and sorting processes for the plastic used.

This document covers any packaging predominantly made of plastic and separate packaging components predominantly made of plastic, both in case they undergo sorting processes.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 18120-1:2026, *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging — Part 1: Definitions and principles for design-for-recycling of plastic packaging*

EN 18120-4, *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging — Part 4: Guideline for PET bottles*

EN 18120-5, *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging — Part 5: Guideline for PET rigid packaging (except bottles)*

EN 18120-6, *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging — Part 6: Guideline for PE and PP rigid packaging*

EN 18120-7, *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging — Part 7: Guideline for PE and PP flexible packaging*

EN 18120-8, *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging — Part 8: Guideline for PS and XPS rigid packaging*

EN 18120-9, *Packaging — Design for recycling of plastic packaging — Part 9: Guideline for EPS packaging*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 18120-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp/>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **ballistic separator**

device that employs a vibrating inclined surface for the separation of objects of different impact behaviour

Note 1 to entry: In the application for sorting plastic packaging, the separation of flexible and rigid packaging is intended.

### 3.2

#### **commercial and industrial packaging waste**

##### **C & I waste**

waste typically (but not limited to) collected from retailers and businesses