

# ***PACKAGING AND PRINTED MATERIALS MANAGEMENT POLICY***

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***metro***

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## 1. Vision

METRO acknowledges the importance of optimizing its packaging and printed materials by reducing their use, designing them in an optimal way, choosing eco-responsible materials and facilitating their recovery and recycling.

The Packaging and Printed Materials Policy is in line with METRO's corporate responsibility (CR) approach which aims, among other things to adopt responsible procurement practices and manage its environmental footprint.

With this policy, METRO has set out a framework to guide the actions undertaken by its teams and suppliers for the effective management of its packaging and printed materials in all its activities.

To develop the principles of this policy, METRO turned to accepted concepts: life cycle analysis and circular economy.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to the packaging and printed materials used in all METRO's corporate, food and pharmacy activities.

### **Packaging covered (primary, secondary, tertiary):**

- Packaging for private brand products
- Packaging of our production centres
- Packaging used in our activities: stores, pharmacies, online grocery services, administrative centres
- Packaging for handling, transport and logistics

### **Printed materials covered:**

- Flyers
- Point of sale materials
- Stationery

This policy was originally adopted in 2019. It was updated in December 2022.

## 3. Responsibilities

The implementation of this policy and the continuous improvement of its results are under the direction of METRO vice presidencies that are responsible for purchasing or merchandising the packaging and printed materials covered in the scope.

## 4. Principles

The principles of the Packaging and Printed Materials Management Policy establish directions for the adoption of practices to decrease resource use, limit product losses and reduce waste generation. METRO will also invest efforts to find alternatives with the least environmental impacts.

METRO's Packaging and Printed Materials Management Policy is based on four principles:

### **4.1 Reduce the use of packaging and printed materials**

As recognized in waste management models, the priority course of action is to use fewer materials.

METRO will therefore aim to reduce packaging and printed materials use in its activities at the source and avoid overpackaging, while ensuring these measures do not lead to product losses. The implementation of such measures will limit the use of single-use packaging.

The Company promotes measures such as the elimination of non-essential and non-structural elements and the reduction of the number of components. It also encourages the reuse of packaging and plastic packaging in particular.

This principle is in line with the waste management program implemented in our corporate and franchised food stores, which seeks to achieve zero waste.

### 4.2 Implement optimal design

METRO aims to use resources responsibly by adopting an eco-design approach to utilize the right amounts of materials without compromising the function of the packaging (to protect products) or printed materials.

With regard to packaging, METRO favours packaging with a lower mass (or volume) relative to the mass (or volume) of the product. This may be achieved through actions to reduce component weights and wasted space.

In implementing the approach, METRO ensures that the reduction in the use of materials does not lead to product losses, which would offset the environmental and economic gains generated by the proposed reduction.

Optimal design also helps enhance the user experience since it ensures an adequate product shelf life and avoids creating more waste when the packaging is not adapted to the need (e.g., a product that cannot be fully removed from its container). Optimal design therefore also reduces waste generation.

### 4.3 Select eco-responsible materials

METRO aims to select materials with the smallest environmental footprint by relying on current environmental certifications and scientific research and consensus.

METRO fosters the use of postconsumer recycled and recyclable materials.

When METRO chooses packaging or printed materials made from virgin fibres, it gives preference to fibres certified under the FSC, PEFC (including CSA) or SFI programs. These certifications attest that the forests from which the resources were harvested are responsibly and sustainably managed.

### 4.4 Facilitate recovery and recycling

METRO aims to facilitate the recyclability of packaging and printed materials and their recovery by consumers through the use of recyclable materials that are compatible with the existing sorting and recycling infrastructure in the provinces where it operates. In addition, the Company seeks to inform consumers of best recovery practices.

Including clear and specific recovery instructions on packaging and printed materials facilitates their recovery and fosters their recycling. The instructions provide information on the materials that should be recovered, how to recover them (e.g., disassembly instructions) and their nature (e.g. resin identification codes for plastics).

By using packaging and printed materials that are easily recyclable and for which there are outlets, METRO intends to contribute to the improvement of the overall efficiency of the curbside collection system and quality of the materials generated. This approach supports collective efforts to divert waste from landfills from the circular economy perspective.

## 5. Implementation approach

With the implementation of the policy, METRO aims to raise awareness among its employees, suppliers and customers of sound management practices for packaging and printed materials in order to reduce their environmental impacts.

The implementation of these principles applies to all the materials used by METRO in its packaging and printed materials. As it develops its initiatives, METRO will target the materials whose environmental impacts are most significant and which represent the largest volumes in terms of use.

In the specific case of food packaging, METRO considers the product and its packaging as a whole and seeks to reduce the combined environmental footprint. In addition to its packaging reduction and optimization objectives, METRO is committed to reducing food waste and deems that packaging plays a part in the attainment of this objective.

METRO therefore favours packaging that ensures the integrity of the product and extends its shelf life so that the product is not discarded before it is consumed in its entirety. It is important to note that the environmental impact of packaging is generally far less significant than that of the product it protects, which is why it is important to optimize the use of packaging. This measure is in keeping with METRO's efforts to reduce organic waste at the source in its operations and by customers.

In selecting and designing more environmentally friendly packaging, METRO will not compromise with regard to the specific characteristics of its packaging for the preservation, quality and safety of its products.

The policy's implementation is based on a management approach that fosters ongoing improvement and collaboration between our teams and suppliers, including our suppliers of national brand products.

METRO has set out additional criteria to support the implementation of this policy.

### Avoid certain materials and substances

- Materials and substances that are controversial or of concern

METRO conducts ongoing monitoring to identify materials and substances that may be controversial or of concern and which it will stop using or seek to progressively remove from its packaging and printed materials based on available alternative solutions. The list of substances and materials will be updated as new knowledge becomes available and regulatory changes come into effect.

- Materials that disrupt the sorting and recycling process

METRO will also seek to avoid the use of materials that could disrupt the sorting and recycling processes, or which are not yet accepted in organic waste collection (e.g. certain biodegradable and compostable plastics).

### Consider suppliers' environmental performance

METRO may assess the environmental performances of its packaging and printed materials suppliers. The Company will favour raw packaging materials suppliers and printers that adopt best practices with regard to their overall environmental performance.

## **6. Reporting**

To ensure transparency, a report on the implementation of this policy, its objectives and results will be incorporated annually into METRO's corporate responsibility report and communicated to the stakeholders concerned.