

EU packaging directive in Denmark

The implementation of the EU Packaging Directive (EU 2018/852) in Denmark - Status

Denmark is the last country in Europe to implement the EU packaging directive on EPR (extended producer responsibility).

However, finally the overall legal framework is in place, all we need now is the see to orders that will outline the set-up in practice. The orders are expected to be sent into consultation later this year.

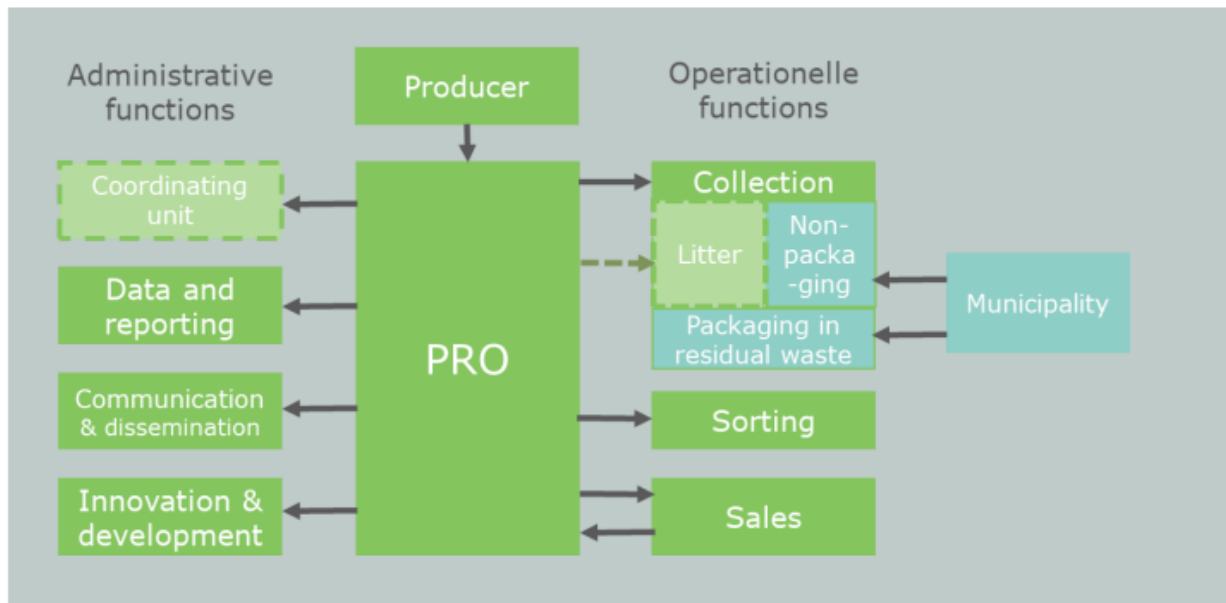
Financially the new Danish legislation will have a huge impact on producers the reason being that producers now need to compensate municipalities for collection at households as well as sorting. The producer responsibility on packaging is expected to amount to 2,35 billion Danish kroner in net costs in 2025 when the legislation takes effect, collection and sorting being the costliest parts of the extended producer responsibility.

According to the Danish Environmental Minister Mrs. Lea Wermelin 41,000 Danish companies will be affected, however, all depending on whether there will be a threshold, i.e., minimum limit (tonnage or Danish kroner) as we know from Holland and Belgium, we will know the exact number later this year.

It is important to note that the producer responsibility systems that should be operative not later than 1st January 2025 will be financed completely by the producers' financial contributions and revenues from sales of recovered packaging materials. The system finances the organizational, including a number of administrative functions, as well as the operational functions in connection with collection, sorting, and sales.

The revenues from sales of recovered packaging materials depend on the market price. For certain types of packaging waste, for instance plastics, the disposal is more often an expenditure rather than an income.

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Collection costs are to a high degree influenced by the level of service. In Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany the service level towards municipalities is laid down in agreements, thereby making the collection costs known.

In Denmark it is expected that legislators will copy the most well-functioning systems in other European countries (much attention is paid to the system in Belgium). Thus, Danish Industry recommends that extensive and clear service agreements be entered into between collective schemes and municipalities.

Finally, we need to see which body will be tasked with the registration of producers in scope of the producer responsibility for packaging. This has not yet been finally decided.