

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** February 17, 2022

**Report Number:** CA2022-0007

**Report Name:** Canada to Set Recycled Content Requirements for Beverage Containers and Other Plastic Items

**Country:** Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

**Report Category:** Beverages, FAIRS Subject Report

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**Report Highlights:**

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) launched consultations on proposed future regulations to set minimum recycled content requirements for certain plastic manufactured items. While the regulatory proposal would exclude primary plastic food packaging which has direct contact with food, plastic beverage containers would be subject to minimum recycled content requirements. Interested stakeholders have until March 14, 2022 to submit their comments.

On February 12, 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) [launched consultations](#) on the intent to propose future regulations that would set minimum recycled content requirements for certain plastic manufactured items. This initiative is part of the federal-provincial [Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste](#), which aims to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030.

The regulatory proposal subject to consultations includes a [Technical Issues Paper](#). The paper provides details on the initiative, as well as a set of specific questions that ECCC is seeking input on. Interested stakeholders have until **March 14, 2022** to send their comments to the following email address:

[ContenuRecycleRecycledContent@ec.gc.ca](mailto:ContenuRecycleRecycledContent@ec.gc.ca)

According to ECCC, actual draft regulations may be published in Canada Gazette, Part I, by the end of 2022, and would be followed by another public comment period for interested parties to provide feedback.

Based on the current proposal, the intent is to follow a “product-based approach” (in terms of product application – e.g. beverage containers – and product format – e.g. rigid containers) in establishing recycled content requirements. While the actual requirement may vary from product to product, the general objective is set at 50 percent recycled content. The recycled content requirements would apply to any person or business that manufactures, imports, or sells the items in Canada, and could enter into force as soon as 2025.

At this time, primary plastic food packaging, defined as packaging that has direct contact with food, would be excluded from the scope of the future regulations. However, plastic beverage containers for “carbonated and non-carbonated beverages including water, soft drinks and juice” are currently part of the scope of this initiative.

In 2021, the United States exported nearly \$1.2 billion in non-alcoholic beverages to Canada (e.g., soft drinks, water), and an additional \$340 million in fruit and vegetable juices. Many of these beverages are packaged in plastic containers.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.