

## Guidance document – Recycled End Uses for Plastic Pesticide Containers

### Preamble:

The crop protection industry stewards its products throughout their lifecycles, from manufacture, distribution and use. In addition, following product use, the industry has developed programs around the world to collect and recycle empty containers.

Globally, since the early nineties, the crop protection industry has implemented empty container collection programs in over 40 countries and more than 25 pilot programs (for the latest map of programs see [www.croplife.org](http://www.croplife.org)). From the 40 mature programs, farmers currently return 66% of all plastic containers shipped, the majority of this plastic is recycled into safe end uses. The goal, by 2020, is to continuously improve the farmer return rate, and the number of countries with container management programs, collecting 50% of all the containers shipped into the global market and recycle as much as feasible of the collected containers.

CropLife International has developed a global steering/advisory body – the Container Management Project Team (CMPT) – to provide guidance and advice to individual country program managers on how to establish cost-effective, sustainable programs and to share best practices.

### Guidance on Plastic Recycling:

With respect to the recycled end uses for plastic from empty pesticide containers, the industry has developed the following guidance:

1. All plastic from empty pesticide containers should be triple or pressure rinsed by farmers.
2. Where possible the plastic containers should be recycled into new products (end use applications) and these should undergo a risk analysis to show that there is unacceptable risk to humans and the environment from the new use. This risk analysis should be undertaken by the individual country program, local government or other competent private or public organization. This includes plastic from both one-way trip containers, as well as plastic from multi-trip drums and totes at their end-of-life.
3. A list of some end use applications that have undergone risk analysis by individual container management programs is available on the CropLife International website.
4. Plastic being recycled into unknown or untested end use applications is considered an industry risk.
5. All country managers or the local CropLife association are requested to submit an annual report to CropLife International on statistical results for the prior year that includes kilograms of container plastic collected and recycled, plus advising:
  - a. A list of end use applications for recycled industry plastic.
  - b. Are all end use applications known for plastic derived from one-way trip containers?
  - c. Are all end use applications known for plastic from larger containers such as drums, totes or IBC's, or end-of-life returnable/refillable containers?
  - d. Are all end use applications been tested and assessed for risk and approved as acceptable by the CropLife International CM PT or equivalent?

## Compliance:

Based on the individual country report (point 4 above), the CropLife International CMPT, in collaboration with the country programs, will assess end use applications against the agreed CropLife industry policy outlined above. If compliance is considered unsatisfactory, the CMPT will offer technical or other assistance to aid in compliance to the above policies. Where necessary, the CMPT will inform stakeholders of end use applications that are considered too risky. The risk analysis used for approval or rejection of end use application will be available to stakeholders on request (for uses analyzed directly by the CMPT. The CMPT will direct stakeholders to the relevant organization for assessments undertaken by other organizations).

**Table. Tested end use applications for recovered plastic containers**

<b>Tested end uses</b>	<b>Rejected end uses</b>
1. Plastic lumber or timber and substitutes	1. Flower pots
2. Waste drums (Fibre)	2. Corner stacks for pallets
3. Concrete saver	3. Blends with virgin material for unknown uses
4. Corrugated conduit buried in walls and soil for electric wires (electric conduit, boxes, sheaths, tubing)	
5. Pesticide containers with recycled material between virgin material	
6. Drainage/sewage piping	
7. Electricity pylon plastic cross piece insulators	
8. Caps for agricultural containers (triex)	
9. Car battery casing	
10. HDPE Rope	
11. Motor oil containers (Triex)	
12. PET Rope	
13. Waste bags for incineration (or hospital trash bags)	
14. Waste drum HDPE	
15. Refuse bags (50/50 blend)	
16. Agricultural fence posts	
17. Pallets (Industrial use only)	
18. Incineration barrels (hazardous)	
19. Curb stops	
20. Marine Pilings	
21. Nailer boards for concrete forms	
22. Commercial truck/manure spreader decker boards	
23. Construction site maps	
24. Highway guard rail posts	
25. Highway signposts	
26. Liners for highway salting trucks	
27. Railroad ties	
28. Road speed bumps	
29. Scaffold nailing strips	
30. Sound barriers	
31. Truck sub-floor components	