FERROUS METALS

2025 figures

Metal packaging made of steel is collected via the blue bag. They belong to the PMD waste. Cans and tins are an example.

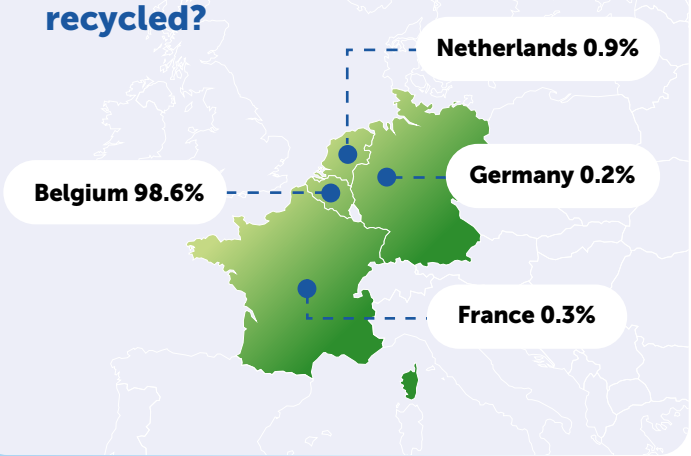
Collection scenario

PMD is collected door-to-door or via drop-off points such as underground containers and sorting streets. Additionally, in certain intermunicipal associations, PMD can also be brought to the recycling park.

Recycling process

Ferrous metal packaging is crushed and further cleaned to produce scrap grades ready for melting.

Where is the material recycled?



26.1 kg

of PMD waste per inhabitant collected

European recycling targets

General targets

70% (2025)

80% (2030)

29.7 kT

of recycled ferrous metal packaging materials

In recent years, we have seen a shift towards drinks cans made of aluminium rather than steel. Although aluminium is more expensive than steel on average, it's a lot lighter, which has a positive impact on transport costs and emissions.

Fostplus

Recyclate applications

- New packaging for food and non-food (cans, pots, trays)
- Products such as a bicycle or a car part
- Applications in the construction industry

Recycling rate for members* of Fost Plus

108%*

**approx. 81% of all packaging on the Belgian market (by weight) comes from Fost Plus members. The rest is purchased by consumers abroad (cross-border purchases) or sold by businesses that consciously or unconsciously evade their take-back obligation (so-called free-riders).*

A recycling rate > 100%?

- Ferrous metal is also recovered from incinerator ash. This means that even when steel packaging such as drinks cans is not selectively collected, it is still recycled and a high rate of material circularity is achieved.
- Packaging from freeriders (companies that do not fulfil their packaging responsibilities and do not declare their packaging).
- Packaging from companies that put < 300 kg of packaging on the market per year (exempt from declaration).

How is that possible?

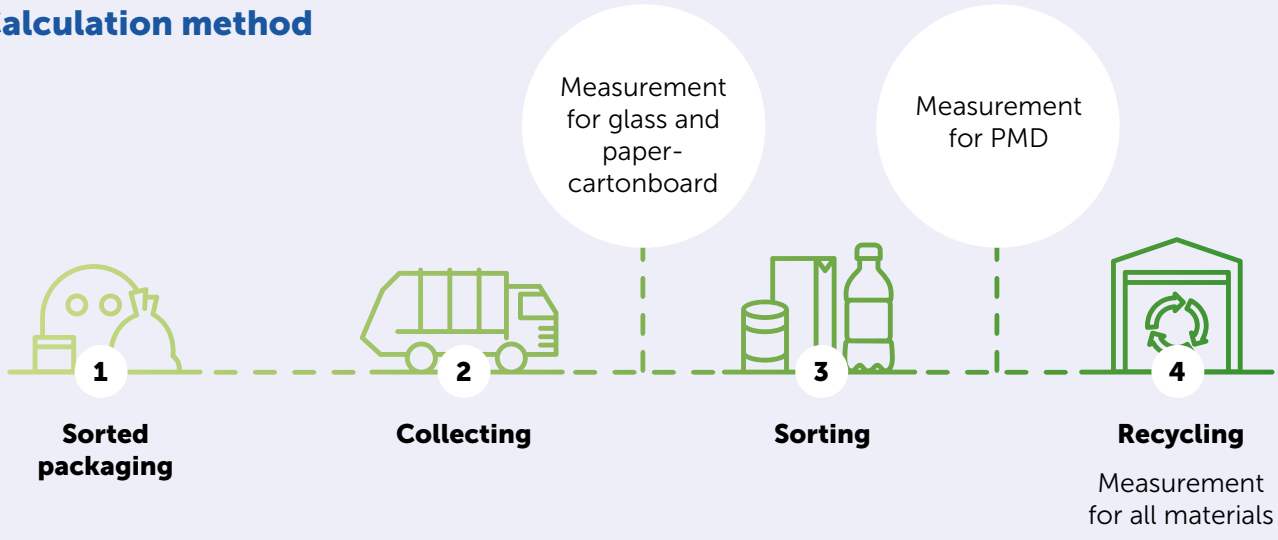
$$\frac{\textbf{Numerator}}{\textbf{Denominator}} = \textbf{Recycling Percentage}$$

Numerator = recycled, in weight

Denominator = packaging declared by Fost Plus members, in weight

If numerator > denominator
➡ recycling percentage +100 %

Calculation method



How is the recycling percentage calculated?

The recycling percentage is calculated when the recycling actually takes place, after removing any contaminants and unsuitable materials from the sorted bales.
The method used has been determined at European level and validated by the Interregional Packaging Commission (IRPC).