USER MANUAL FOR COMPANIES

Symbol for packaging recycling

Voluntary information system to help the end user correctly sort packaging for recycling

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1. Why a Symbol for recycling?

1. Why a Symbol for recycling?

- The proper sorting of packaging waste in the home is critical to the recycling process. End users often have doubts as to which container to deposit each packaging item in, or its component parts, and would appreciate having information on the packaging itself to guide them in this effort.

- Moreover, the environmental commitment of companies, which includes their interest in supporting the public to recycle more and better, is reinforced by the **obligation laid out in Royal Decree 1055/2022**. This regulation states that **by 2025, household packaging will indicate the fraction or container into which said packaging waste must be deposited**. Until then, including this information is voluntary.

- Against this backdrop, **Ecoembes** is making available to companies an **information system to help end users to correctly sort packaging** so that, through its continued use, the public will grow accustomed to it and quickly be able to identify which packaging goes into which container for recycling.

- **It is free to use and voluntary**, and it can only be used on household packaging that is deposited in the Yellow, Blue, Green and Brown containers, in keeping with the principles of application contained in this guide.

- For more information, **you can call us on 900 84 83 82 or write to** atencionalcliente@ecoembes.com.

If you have questions about which container the packaging goes into, check with our **Intelligent Recycling Assistant, AIRE**

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1. Why a Symbol for recycling?

Advantages of incorporating the packaging recycling Symbol

The addition of this Symbol to packaging helps all the agents involved in the recycling process: the end user, companies and public administrations.

- It helps companies to **comply with their obligations** as per Royal Decree 1055/2022 by 2025.

- It brings credibility to the **environmental commitment** of the companies that incorporate it, and creates added value in terms of the reputation and image of their products.

- It helps **inform the public**, making it **easy for it to participate in the recycling of packaging**, doing away with the existing confusion and fostering a positive perception of the environment.

- **It improves the quality of the material** deposited in the selective collection containers (Yellow, Blue, Green and Brown) and makes the process of sorting the packaging more efficient by reducing the costs of the system.

- Ecoembes-member companies that incorporate this Symbol will be working to improve the recycling of packaging, and therefore undertaking a communicable **prevention measure** within the Ecoembes Prevention Business Plan.
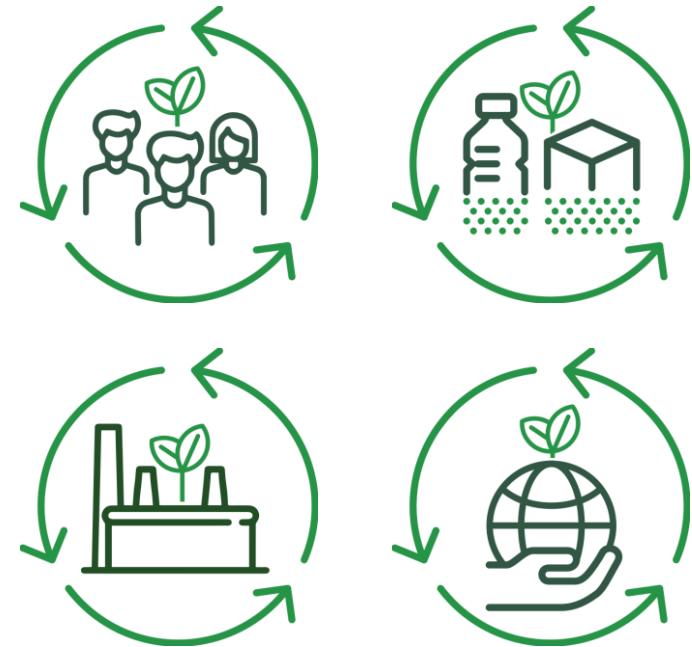
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2. Introducing the Symbol for recycling packaging

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2. Introducing the Symbol for recycling packaging

- The packaging recycling Symbol is an information system designed to help the end user to correctly sort the packaging for subsequent recycling.

- It can be displayed **free of charge and voluntarily** on the household packaging deposited in the Yellow, Blue, Green and Brown containers, always in keeping with the instructions provided in this Manual.

- It comes in different versions for each of the four container types available for the separate collection of packaging:

RECICLA
In the Yellow container
Plastic, metal and carton packaging

RECICLA
In the Blue container
Paper and cardboard packaging.

COMPOSTA
In the Brown container
Compostable packaging

RECICLA
In the green Container
Glass packaging

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3. Using the Symbol in each market

3.1 In the domestic market

3.2 In the international market

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3. Using the Symbol in each market

3.1 In the domestic market

Depending on the space available on the label or packaging, these two versions of the Symbol may be used:

Version A:
less space available

Version B:
more space available

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3. Using the Symbol in each market

3.1 In the domestic market

Also available in other official languages

Catalan

RECICLA — Al Groc

RECICLA — Al Blau

COMPOSTA — Al Marró

RECICLA — Al Verd

Galician

RECICLA — Ao Amarelo

RECICLA — Ao Azul

COMPOSTA — Ao Marrón

RECICLA — Ao Verde

Basque

BIRZIKLATU — Horira

BIRZIKLATU — Urdinera

KONPOSTA — Marroira

BIRZIKLATU — Berdera

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3. Using the Symbol in each market

3.2 In the international market

In this case, if the packaging is also distributed in the domestic market, whenever possible, it should be shown in the corresponding colour.

Below are bilingual versions of the packaging recycling Symbol in several languages. Whenever possible, it should be shown in the corresponding colour. You must ensure the color of the container in different countries.

International Market

No sales in the domestic market | Sales in the domestic market

Spanish / English

RECICLA RECYCLE | RECICLA RECYCLE | COMPOSTA COMPOST | RECICLA RECYCLE | Amarillo Yellow | Azul Blue | Marrón Brown | Verde Green

Spanish / French

RECICLA RECYCLE | RECICLA RECYCLE | COMPOSTA COMPOST | RECICLA RECYCLE | Amarillo Jaune | Azul Bleu | Marrón Marron | Verde Vert

Spanish / Italian

RECICLA RICICLA | RECICLA RICICLA | COMPOSTA COMPOST | RECICLA RICICLA | Amarillo Giallo | Azul Blu | Marrón Marrone | Verde Verde

Spanish / Portuguese

RECICLA | RECICLA | COMPOSTA | RECICLA | Amarillo Amarelo | Azul Azul | Marrón Castanho | Verde Verde

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.1 Packaging to be deposited in the Yellow container

4.2 Packaging to be deposited in the Blue container

4.3 Packaging to be deposited in the Brown container

4.4 Packaging to be deposited in the Green container

4.5 Products with packaging of different materials

4.1 Symbol for packaging to be deposited in the Yellow container

This is the symbol to be used on **household plastic, metal and carton packaging** that has to be deposited in the **Yellow separate collection container**. For example: plastic packaging (beverages, shampoo, detergent, bath gel, shopping bags...), metal packaging (soda cans, cans of preserves, deodorants...) and carton-type packaging (juice, milk, smoothies, broth...).

Version A
Symbol for recycling packaging **YELLOW**

RECICLA

Al Amarillo

Version B
Symbol for recycling packaging **YELLOW**

RECICLA Al Amarillo

RECICLA Al Amarillo

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4.2 Symbol for packaging to be deposited in the Blue container

This is the symbol to be used **on household paper and/or cardboard packaging** that has to be deposited in the **Blue separate collection container**. For example: boxes of biscuits, cereals, shoes, frozen products, paper bags...

Version A
Symbol for recycling packaging **BLUE**

Version B
Symbol for recycling packaging **BLUE**

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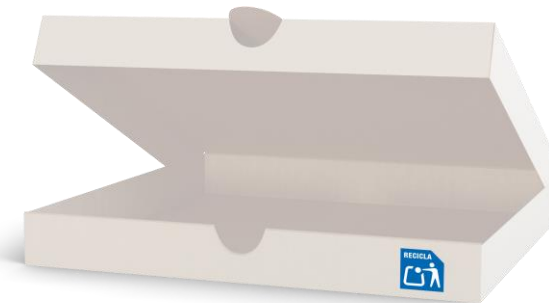
4.3 Symbol for packaging to be deposited in the Brown container

This is the Symbol to be used on **compostable packaging** that has to be deposited in the **Brown separate collection container**.

Packaging is compostable if it **complies with the UNE EN 13432:2001 standard on compostability**, meaning if it is able to biodegrade almost completely, together with organic matter, in an industrial installation under certain operating conditions (time, temperature, oxygen, light and humidity), giving rise to a compound that is suitable for use as a fertilizer in agriculture.

Version A
Symbol for recycling packaging **BROWN**

Version B
Symbol for recycling packaging **BROWN**

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.4 Packaging to be deposited in the Green container

This is the symbol to be used on **glass packaging** that has to be deposited in the **Green separate collection container**. For example: any glass bottle (wine, spirits...) or jars (cosmetics, cologne, jam, preserves...).

Version A
Symbol for recycling packaging **GREEN**

Version B
Symbol for recycling packaging **GREEN**

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4.5 Symbol for products with packaging of different materials

In cases where the packaging is composed of different materials corresponding to different containers, a <u>determination has to be made as to whether the materials can be easily separated by the end user or not</u>. Depending on this determination:

4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Royal Decree 1055/022 states that **if the materials can be easily separated**, the different containers will be indicated. To do this, Ecoembes recommends using the corresponding Symbol on each element of the packaging whenever possible.

Example: yogurt packs
- Cardboard structure: in the **Blue** container
- Plastic packaging: in the **Yellow** container
- Plastic lid: in the **Yellow** container

Example: pack of biscuits
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** container
- Plastic wrappers: in the **Yellow** container

Example: face cream
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** container
- Plastic jar: in the **Yellow** container

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: cologne
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** *container*
- Plastic jar: in the **Yellow** *container*

Example: 4-pack of milk cartons
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** *container*
- Carton: in the **Yellow** *container*

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: pack 6 bottles
- Cardboard structure: in the **Blue** *container*
- Glass bottle: in the **Green** *container*
- Metal cap: in the **Yellow** *container*

Example: cream jar
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** *container*
- Glass jar: in the **Green** *container*
- Plastic lid: in the **Yellow** *container*

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

## 4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: marker pack
- Blister pack: *the plastic part in the **Yellow** container* and the cardboard part in the **Blue**

Example: lip balm pack
- Stick: in the **Yellow** container
- Blister pack: the plastic part in the **Yellow** container and the cardboard part in the **Blue**

Example: pack of tomato cans
- Plastic lid: in the **Yellow** container
- Glass jar: in the **Green** container
- Plastic wrapper: in the **Yellow** container

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

If the Symbol cannot be displayed on each element, the Symbols will be shown on the main element (box, bottle, jar, glass, etc.) or the label that identifies the product, using the following nomenclature to define the different materials: **Cardboard, Plastic, Metal, Carton, Glass and Compostable.**

Depending on the space available on the label or packaging, two versions of the Symbol may be used:

This figure depicts the Blue and Yellow versions and extends to the remaining versions.

Version 1.
Without the word **RECICLA**: less space available
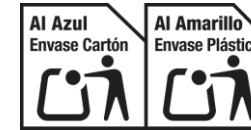
Version 2.
With the word **RECICLA**: more space available
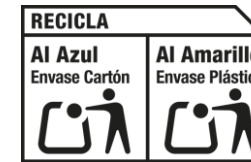
Example: cereal box
- **Cardboard box:** in the *Blue* container
- **Plastic bag:** in the *Yellow* container

4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user
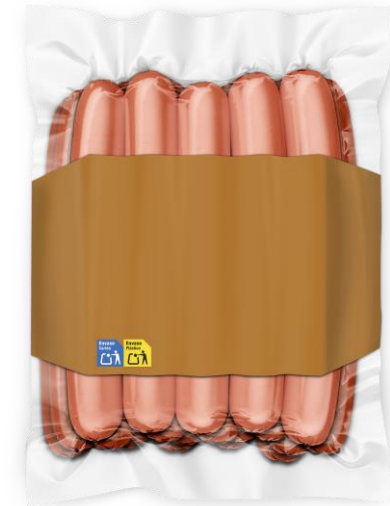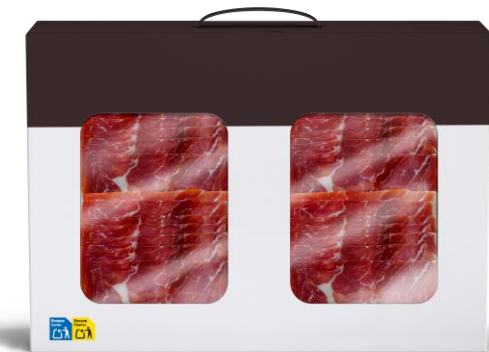

Example: 1L bottle
- Glass bottle: in the **Green** *container*
- Cap: in the **Yellow** *container*

Example: pack of biscuits
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** *container*
- Plastic wrapper: in the **Yellow** *container*

Example: pack of sausages
- Cardboard label: in the **Blue** *container*
- Plastic sausage wrappers: in the **Yellow** *container*

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4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: box of prawns
- Plastic tray: in the *Yellow container*
- Cardboard box: in the *Blue container*

Example: box of nappies
- Cardboard box: in the *Blue container*
- Plastic packaging: in the *Yellow container*

Example: box of ham
- Cardboard box: in the *Blue container*
- Plastic packaging: in the *Yellow container*

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4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: box ice cream cones
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** container
- Plastic wrapper: in the **Yellow** container

Example: bag of crisps
- Paper bag: in the **Blue** container
- Plastic bag: in the **Yellow** container

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4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: package of saline
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** *container*
- Individual plastic packaging containing the product: in the *Yellow container*

Example: package of pasta
- Cardboard label: in the **Blue** *container*
- Plastic bag: in the *Yellow container*

Example: assortment of pastries
- Plastic box: in the *Yellow container*
- Cardboard label: in the **Blue** *container*

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

On certain occasions, **two or more of the elements that make up packaging must be deposited in the same container,** in which case the following adaptation will be used:

Version 1.
Without the word RECICLA: less space available

Version 2.
With the word RECICLA: more space available

This content depicts the Blue and Yellow versions and extends to the remaining versions.

Example: pack of four tubs
- Cardboard box: in the **Blue** container
- Plastic tub: in the **Yellow** container
- Metal foil lid: in the **Yellow** container

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4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: pack of food cans
- Cardboard structure: in the *Blue* container
- Aluminium can: in the *Yellow* container
- Aluminium cap: in the *Yellow* container

Example: pre-cooked lasagna Bolognese
- Cardboard band: in the *Blue* container
- Plastic tray: in the *Yellow* container
- Plastic film wrapping the packaging: in the *Yellow* container

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4. Using the Symbol on each type of material

4.5.1 If the materials can be easily separated by the end user

Example: jar of purée
- Cardboard band: in the *Blue container*
- Plastic packaging containing the product: in the *Yellow container*
- Plastic lid: in the *Yellow container*

Example: carton of eggs
- Cardboard structure: in the *Blue container*
- Cardboard egg holder: in the *Blue container*
- Plastic coating: in the *Yellow container*

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4.5.2 If the materials cannot be easily separated by the end user: multimaterial packaging

Royal Decree 1055/022 states that if the materials cannot be easily separated, or in the case of composite packaging, the container for the predominant material by weight in the packaging will be indicated.

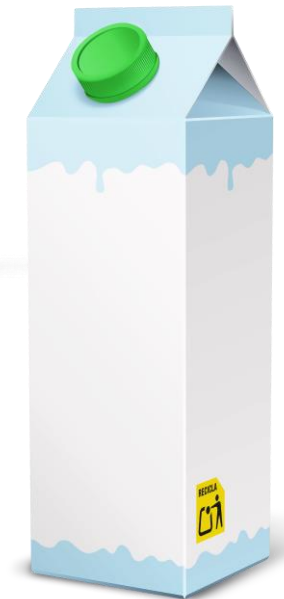**Version 1.**
Less printing space available

RECICLA

Al Amarillo

Version 2.
more printing space available

RECICLA
Al Amarillo

RECICLA
Al Amarillo

This content depicts the Yellow version and extends to the remaining versions.

Example: aerosol

Example: milk or juice carton

Example: multi-layers

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4.5.2 If the materials cannot be easily separated by the end user: multimaterial packaging

Version 1.
Less printing space available

RECICLA | Al Azul

Version 2
more printing space available

RECICLA Al Azul | RECICLA Al Azul

This content depicts the Blue version and extends to the remaining versions.

Example: packaging for bread, salmon, soap, potatoes…

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5. Design

5.1 Rules of use

5.2 Use of colour. Official colours

5.3 Colour on coloured backgrounds

5.4 Using the Symbol on photographic backgrounds

5.5 Size of the Symbol

5.6 Buffer around the Symbol

5.7 Restrictions and incorrect uses

5.1 Rules of use.

The packaging recycling symbol is designed so it can be quickly spotted and identified by end users.
As a result, we recommend:

- Reproducing the symbol in its official colour. When this is not possible, the version of the symbol containing the written mention of the colour of the container must be used.

- Use an appropriate size to maintain the effectiveness of the message.

- Respect the buffer free of graphic elements around the symbol and do not use other elements inside other than those specified.

- Do not alter the shape or proportion of its graphic elements, messages or typography.

- Always use the original vector art provided by Ecoembes, available at www.ecoembes.com/empresas

However, the flexible use of colour, size and position of the symbol on the packaging or packaging label is a possibility.

In individual formats, the symbol should be placed on the main element of the packaging (bottle, jar, glass, etc.) or on the label identifying the product. For multimaterial packaging, see pages 29 and 30. In grouped formats, the corresponding symbol should be placed on the secondary packaging and on each of the individual packaging units it contains.

Graphically, it consists of the following elements: shape, icon, message, colour and typography.

RECICLA
Al Azul

HELVÉTICA NEUE LT Heavy Condensed
Helvética Neue LT Bold Condensed

Shape. Frames and makes the information on the recycling of the packaging recognizable.

Icon. The same for all packaging. Always included in the shape.

Message. Encourages the action and describes the colour of the container.

Colours. Same as the containers (optional but recommended).

Typography. Contemporary and versatile, flexible, easy to read and reproduce.

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5.1 Use of colour.
Official colours

Although it is not mandatory to use Pantone colours or their four-colour equivalent, it is recommended that the Symbol for recycling appear in its official colour.

Always use the packaging recycling Symbol's original vector art. You can download them from this website:

DOWNLOAD IT HERE

YELLOW
C: 0 M: 10 Y: 100 K: 0
Pantone: 109 C

BLACK
C: 0 M: 0 Y: 0 K: 100
Pantone: Process Black C

BLUE
C: 100 M: 50 Y: 0 K: 0
Pantone: 300 C

BROWN
C: 32 M: 65 Y: 84 K: 21
Pantone: 4635 C

GREEN
C: 100 M: 0 Y: 100 K: 0
Pantone: 348 C

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5.3 Colour on coloured backgrounds

To maximize flexibility and proper legibility, other colours can be used for the Symbol, on a white, coloured or transparent background.

It is important to remember that when it is not possible to print with the official colours, the version of the Symbol has to be used that provides a written mention of the container's colour.

Version A

Official colour	In any colour	Any white or transparent background colour	Black on white or transparent background	Official colour on contrasting background	Black on monochrome background	Black on monochrome background	White on monochrome background

5. Design

5.3 Colour on coloured backgrounds

In multi-material versions, the colour is applied as shown herein.

Version B

Official colour	In any colour	Any white or transparent background colour	Black on white or transparent background	Official colour on contrasting background	Black on monochrome background	Black on monochrome background	White on monochrome background
RECICLA Al Amarillo	RECICLA Al Amarillo	RECICLA Al Amarillo	RECICLA Al Amarillo	RECICLA Al Amarillo	RECICLA Al Amarillo	RECICLA Al Amarillo	RECICLA Al Amarillo
RECICLA Al Azul	RECICLA Al Azul	RECICLA Al Azul	RECICLA Al Azul	RECICLA Al Azul	RECICLA Al Azul	RECICLA Al Azul	RECICLA Al Azul
COMPOSTA Al Marrón	COMPOSTA Al Marrón	COMPOSTA Al Marrón	COMPOSTA Al Marrón	COMPOSTA Al Marrón	COMPOSTA Al Marrón	COMPOSTA Al Marrón	COMPOSTA Al Marrón
RECICLA Al Verde	RECICLA Al Verde	RECICLA Al Verde	RECICLA Al Verde	RECICLA Al Verde	RECICLA Al Verde	RECICLA Al Verde	RECICLA Al Verde

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5. Design

5.4 Using the Symbol on photographic backgrounds

When shown on a photographic background, the contrast should be as high as possible to make the recycling Symbol easy to read.

The figure shows some correct examples of application of the Symbol that are valid for all versions and colours.

This example is applicable to versions for multimaterial packaging and for international markets.

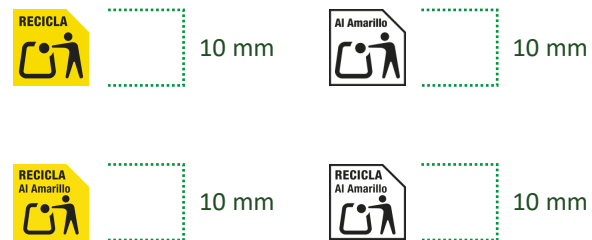*This figure depicts the Yellow of the Symbol, and extends to the Blue, Green and Brown versions.*

5. Design

5.5. Size of the Symbol

The recycling Symbol should be quickly visible and identifiable by users.

Its size should be appropriate to preserve the effectiveness of the message.

This figure depicts the Yellow version of the Symbol, and extends to the Blue, Green and Brown versions, and to the versions for multimaterial packaging and for the international market.

Recommended minimum size: **10mm**

RECICLA   10 mm   Al Amarillo   10 mm

RECICLA Al Amarillo   10 mm   RECICLA Al Amarillo   10 mm

Minimum size **allowed: 8mm**
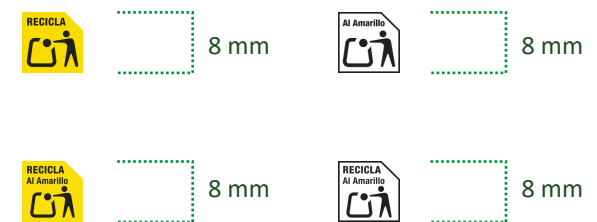
RECICLA   8 mm   Al Amarillo   8 mm

RECICLA Al Amarillo   8 mm   RECICLA Al Amarillo   8 mm

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5.6 Buffer around the Symbol

To maintain legibility, a buffer zone around the Symbol should be kept clear of any other graphical elements. This zone is indicated by the letter "x" in the illustration.

The buffer zone in versions for multimaterial packaging and for the international market applies as in this example.

This figure depicts the Yellow version of the Symbol, and extends to the Blue, Green and Brown versions.

5.7 Restrictions and incorrect uses

The recycling Symbol, in any of its variants and colour patterns, must not be altered in terms of its proportions or colours.

Some incorrect uses of the Symbol:

This figure depicts the Yellow version of the Symbol, and extends to the Blue, Green and Brown versions, and to the versions for multimaterial packaging and for the international market.

Altering the arrangement of the colours of the different graphic elements of the Symbol

Varying the proportion of the graphic elements

Changing the messages set out in this manual

Altering the external shape of the Symbol

Using typography other than that set forth in this Manual

Placing other elements within the Symbol

Applying shading or effects to the Symbol

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Packaging recycling symbol

Always use the packaging recycling Symbol's original vector art, available on the website:

DOWNLOAD IT HERE

Ecoembes is the non-profit organization that owns and promotes this symbol for recycling packaging, whose use is voluntary and free.

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