

Our commitments to Circular Economy and Prevented Ocean Plastic™



Groupe GUILIN and the Environment

Protecting your food and the environment has been in our DNA since the beginning of Groupe GUILIN's history.

We fully embrace Circular Economy practices for plastics and design our products for full recyclability, making efficient use of the material and the resources that produce them.

We include high levels of recycled content and we strongly believe that once used, all plastic packaging should be properly collected, sorted and recycled.

We are committed to help make plastic waste a valuable resource. In 2020 we consumed a majority of post-consumer material coming from our local UK & EU markets. We work hard to increase the percentage of recycled and food safe material we use and develop new sources of post-consumer recycled material in all plastics, including Polypropylene (rPP).

We are also very conscious of problems generated, around the world and predominantly in Asia, by the large quantities of plastic post-consumer waste entering our oceans each year.

Because we believe in action more than words, we decided to support the Prevented Ocean Plastic™ (POP™) programme created by our partners Bantam Materials and OceanCycle®. Through this exclusive agreement, we will in 2 years of our support of the programme, remove the equivalent of 850 million PET bottles from South East Asian coastlines and convert them back to high quality, food safe packaging where they belong. The collection of which support local coastal communities financially, educates them about the benefits of recycling and support a global recycling endeavour.

We chose the POP™ programme because of:

- 1/ The full traceability provided: at every step of the collection and conversion a full chain of custody is strictly adhered to.
- 2/ The full compliance to UK and EU regulations for post-consumer rPET flake, which flows through to our inclusion of the POP™ rPET flake within our packaging, adhering at all stages to European Food Safety Standards.
- 3/ The independent third-party audits and inspections to ensure highest ethical behaviours and best practices are upheld throughout the value chain.
- 4/ It's the largest project of its kind in delivering high quality post-consumer recycling away from geographies classed as being at risk of adding to Ocean Plastic Pollution.

POP post-consumer plastic meets all EU & UK Regulations

Full Traceability and Regulatory Conformity is its greatest strength

Prevented Ocean Plastic™ is compliant with EU and UK import regulations with both UK & EU REACH registrations and provides moreover:

- 1/ A full suite of regulatory documentation relating to the PET flakes (technical data sheet, material safety data sheet, DoC, etc.),
- 2/ A Full traceability at every link of the chain, from the bottle collectors, aggregation, collection, processing to the flake production and provides a documentation of Good Manufacturing Practices compliant with EU regulations such as 2023/2006, 282/2011 and 1935/2004,
- 3/ Flake production feedstock from a 99% Food Grade PET bottle bales significantly over EU standard of 95% inclusion of food packaging in bales (bottle or trays),
made possible through its robust sortation process of a single polymer collection system rather than a co-mingled system such as kerbside collection in the UK/EU,
- 4/ Risk assessment of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC statement),
- 5/ Good Manufacturing Practices observed at all stages in the supply chain and evidenced via a full audit documentation trail.

Current regulations do not differentiate between geographies in terms of recycled material collection and quality, EFSA approved processes are being granted to multiple processors outside Europe, thereby approving their input streams for use.

GULLIN & SHARPAK Responsible Manufacturing in Practice

We include Prevented Ocean Plastic™ in selected packaging ranges, manufactured to the Groupe's highest standard for quality and food contact safety. According to Regulation EC 282/2008 and amending Regulation 2023/2006 this material can be safely placed in food contact packaging if:

- 1/ It goes through a decontamination technology compliant with European legislation,
SHARPAK in the UK and other Groupe GULLIN manufacturing sites operate EFSA approved decontamination processes to convert recycled plastics back into food contact plastic,
- or
- 2/ The recycled material is encapsulated between functional plastic barrier layers (A/B/A structure), with the recycled content itself in the middle layer (Directive 2002/72).

All our production goes through the legally required Migration testing, Global and Specific, as per prevailing EU and UK regulations.

As part of our continuous food safety compliance we also test our products for BPA inclusion and migration, in our independently accredited laboratory, situated at our Yate production site.

Ultimately the POP™ programme presents an innovative, market leading traceability across its bottle and bale input stream.

By choosing to use products that include POP™ content, you support & elevate Global Recycling Efforts, support coastal communities financially, and ultimately bring a valuable resource back into packaging and away from the natural environment. This is also an educative and preventive action aimed to invite people to a responsible behavior.