

## Frequently Asked Questions: Sustainable Packaging

### What are the guidelines and expectations for suppliers?

Please refer to the 10 Packaging Principles in the first instance. Specific guidance may be issued to suppliers by Foodstuffs Merchandise teams depending on the category and application e.g. packaging specification guidelines for produce and butchery pre-pack.

Supplier education is important to Foodstuffs and we will continue to discuss packaging sustainability and best practice through the eXchange, workshops and supplier briefings.

### What is Foodstuffs position on bioplastics?

Bioplastics are a complicated area with robust due diligence required, and as such, an 'avoid' approach is recommended. Certified home compostable bio plastics should only be used when there is minimal risk of them entering the recycling system. Excellent guidance by [WasteMINZ](#) and [APCO](#) is available.

In 2019, a new section was added to [Foodstuffs Compliance Pack](#) that focused on bioplastic end-of-life and material composition claim substantiation, in alignment with Commerce Commission and WasteMINZ guidance.

Although the current bioplastics guidance is focused on compostable bioplastics, Foodstuffs acknowledges that renewable bio-based 'drop in' alternatives to petroleum-based polymers is a growing area. These bio-based drops ins should align with existing resin codes and recycling streams.

### What is Foodstuffs position on problematic plastic packaging and bans?

Some packaging types have been identified as problematic, including oxo-degradables, type 3 plastic PVC and type 6 plastic polystyrene. Oxo-degradables are [not permitted](#) for use or sale in Foodstuffs stores.

Foodstuffs will continue to work with suppliers on targeted phase outs and proactive change in this area.

### What about soft plastics?

FMCG has strong reliance on and high exposure to soft, flexible plastic packaging. Foodstuffs are working hard to reduce volumes and rationalise polymer types where possible.

Foodstuffs were founding members of The Packaging Forum's Soft Plastics Recycling Scheme, however suspended collection and participation in 2018 following significant disruption to reprocessing capacity in NZ.

Due to stabilisation and growth of on shore reprocessing volumes in 2020, soft plastics collection will resume at selected Foodstuffs North Island stores in Auckland and Wellington regions from October 2020.

### What packaging related industry groups are Foodstuffs affiliated with?

Foodstuffs uses system thinking to navigate packaging. We are members of The Packaging Forum, WasteMINZ, Sustainable Business Network, APCO, RetailNZ and LKANZ.