

**NB: Unofficial translation; legally binding texts are those in Finnish and Swedish**

**Ministry of the Environment, Finland**

**No. 883**  
**GOVERNMENT DECISION**  
**ON THE COLLECTION AND RECOVERY OF WASTE PAPER**

November 25, 1998

**Section 1**

*Purpose*

The purpose of this Decision is to make the collection and recovery of waste paper more efficient and to minimize the impact on them of harmful economic fluctuations.

**Section 2**

*Definitions*

For the purposes of this Decision:

- 1) waste paper shall mean newspapers, magazines, direct-mail advertising, telephone directories, mail order catalogues, envelopes, office paper or other similar paper products, discarded as waste in households, offices or other similar places;
- 2) producer shall mean a professional manufacturer or an importer of printing paper or other paper used for the manufacture of paper products as referred to in subparagraph 1;
- 3) producer corporation shall mean a legally competent corporation formed by producers which works for the implementation of this Decision;
- 4) collection shall mean the collection and transport of waste paper for recovery.

**Section 3**

*Targets*

The target is that at least 70 per cent of waste paper should be collected and recovered by the year 2000 and at least 75 per cent by the year 2005, calculated in terms of paper products sold and used in Finland as referred to in this Decision. The waste paper collected shall primarily be recovered as material.

**Section 4**

*Collection*

Property holders shall provide residential property and property with offices or production or service functions with room and facilities for the separate collection of waste paper, and keep them and their surroundings tidy.

In areas of low-rise housing, and in sparsely populated areas, the collection facilities can take the form of an areal collection site provided by the producer, rather than facilities on each property; this site serves the properties in the area and its location is agreed on with the municipalities concerned. The producer shall keep the collection site and its surroundings tidy.

Property holders shall ensure that the separate collection of waste paper at properties or at collection sites is in accordance with the municipal waste management regulations, or as agreed with the producer.

**Section 5**

*Transport*

Producers shall, at their own expense, organize the transport of waste paper from properties or areal collection sites.

**Section 6**

*Exceptions concerning the organization of collection*

The duties laid down in sections 4 and 5 above do not apply to the organization of waste paper collection at a property or areal collection site if this would involve excessive costs and the targets set out in section 3 can be achieved by other means.

## **Section 7**

### *Recovery*

Producers shall organize the recovery of waste paper so that the targets set out in section 3 can be achieved.

## **Section 8**

### *Provision of information*

Producers shall provide information and advice concerning the collection and recovery of waste paper and specifically ensure that property holders are provided with all the necessary information. Producers shall specifically see to it that property holders are provided with the necessary information about the duties and instructions concerning separate collection and about the collection and recovery facilities available.

## **Section 9**

### *Duty to cooperate*

Producers shall cooperate with the municipality concerned in organizing the collection and recovery of waste paper and in providing relevant information and advice in the municipality.

## **Section 10**

### *Transfer of the waste management duty*

When waste paper is delivered to a producer for collection, transport or recovery in accordance with this Decision, said producer becomes responsible for this part of the waste management duty referred to in chapter 3 of the Waste Act (1072/1993).

## **Section 11**

### *Duty of disclosure*

By the end of April each year, producers shall provide the Finnish Environment Institute with the following information on the previous year:

- 1) the volume of paper used for manufacturing the paper products referred to in section 2, paragraph 1, and supplied to the domestic market;
- 2) the volume of waste paper collected and recovered as material or energy in Finland and the percentage of collected and recovered waste paper, calculated as laid down in the Annex to this Decision;
- 3) the volume of exported and imported waste paper;
- 4) information and advice provided by the producer.

## **Section 12**

### *Transferring the producer's duties*

In accordance with section 49 of the Waste Act, producers and a producer corporation entered in the waste data register referred to in section 70 of the Act can agree that the producer corporation will assume responsibility for a producer's waste management duty as laid down in this Decision. In that case, the producer corporation is responsible for the producer's duties as laid down in this Decision from the moment the Finnish Environment Institute has been notified by the producer corporation concerning the agreement made.

## **Section 13**

### *Notification concerning producers belonging to a producer corporation*

Producer corporation shall provide the Finnish Environment Institute with information about producers that have joined or left the association without delay.

## **Section 14**

### *Authority of the Ministry of the Environment and the municipality*

The Ministry of the Environment can issue more detailed provisions and instructions concerning the application of this Decision.

Under section 17 of the Waste Act, a municipality can issue more detailed local general regulations related to this Decision, concerning the organization of waste paper collection.

## **Section 15**

### *Coercive measures and sanctions*

Provisions on coercive measures and sanctions, should the duties laid down in this Decision be violated, are contained in chapter 10 of the Waste Act.

## **Section 16**

### *Entry into force and transitional provisions*

This Decision comes into force on January 1, 1999.

A municipality that has organized the collection of waste paper in its area as a municipal scheme in accordance with chapter 3 of the Waste Act before the adoption of this Decision can continue these operations for up to three years from the issue of this Decision. During this period, producers are exempt from the duties laid down in section 4, paragraph 2, and section 5 in the area concerned.

## **Annex**

### **Calculating the waste paper collection and recovery rate**

#### Definitions

PTK = domestic paper deliveries  
PTUO = paper imports  
PTT = imports of printed matter  
PTV = exports of printed matter  
KPTO = collection of waste paper  
KVUH = collected waste paper exported for recovery  
KHK = collected waste paper recovered in Finland  
JH = processing reject  
EKO = not collectible  
POT = waste paper potential  
KE = correction items

#### **Formulae:**

$POT = PTK + PTUO + PTT - PTV - JH - KE - EKO$

**Collection rate, % =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recovery rate, % =** \_\_\_\_\_

Notified in accordance with Council Directive 98/34/EC.