

## 2. Description of Blue Box Wastes

### 2.1 Definition of Blue Box Wastes

Regulation 2002.0351.e under the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002* defines Blue Box wastes in the following manner:

Waste that consists of any of the following materials, or any combination of them, is prescribed as Blue Box wastes for the purpose of the *Act*:

- Glass;
- Metal;
- Paper;
- Plastic; and
- Textile.

This definition is broad in scope and encompasses packaging and printed materials and a wide range of consumer products. However, given that municipal Blue Box programs collect primarily packaging and printed materials and do not generally collect consumer products, the Blue Box Program Plan addresses only consumer packaging material and printed papers commonly found in the residential waste stream.

#### 2.1.1 Definition of Packaging Materials

Largely based on the European Parliament and Council Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste (94/62/EC), Stewardship Ontario has adopted the following definition of packaging. The definitions have been modified to suit the requirements of the WDA and the accompanying Blue Box wastes Regulation.

- (1) 'Packaging' shall mean all products made of paper, glass, metal, plastics, textiles or any combination thereof to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or the consumer. 'Non-returnable' items used for the same purposes shall also be considered to constitute packaging. 'Packaging' for the purposes of the Blue Box Program Plan consists only of:
  - (a) Sales packaging or primary packaging, i.e., packaging conceived so as to constitute at the point of purchase a sales unit to the final user or consumer;
  - (b) Grouped packaging or secondary packaging that goes to the household, i.e., packaging conceived so as to constitute at the point of purchase a grouping of a certain number of sales units whether the latter is sold as such to the final user or consumer;
  - (c) Transportation, distribution or tertiary packaging that is conceived to be distributed to household consumers. For example, household personal computers are packaged in large corrugated boxes similar to transportation packaging. If this packaging is intended for final use or management by the consumer or end user, it is considered obligated packaging under the Blue Box Program Plan. Transportation packaging that is not intended primarily for use or management by the consumer (e.g., removed

by the retailer prior to placing products on the store shelf) is not considered obligated packaging under the Stewardship Ontario program; and

The definition of 'packaging' shall also take into consideration the criteria set out below.

- (2) Items shall be considered packaging if they fulfil the definition above without prejudice to other functions which the packaging might also perform, unless the item is an integral part of a product and all elements are intended to be consumed or disposed of together. Examples of packaging include, but are not limited to:
  - Chocolates box;
  - Film over wrap around a CD case;
  - Decorative cookie tin;
  - Envelopes for goods; and
  - Plastic wrap and cores of gift wrap, foil, toilet paper.
- (3) Items designed and intended to be filled at the point of sale and 'disposable' items sold, filled or designed and intended to be filled at the point of sale shall be considered packaging provided they fulfil a packaging function. This is known as service or in-store packaging. Examples of service or in-store packaging include, but are not limited to:
  - Paper or plastic carry-out bags provided at checkout and provided by retailers;
  - Bags filled at the shelves with bulk goods, produce, baked goods, etc.;
  - Disposable plates and cups;
  - Take-out and home delivery food service packaging such as pizza boxes, cups, bags, folded cartons, wraps, trays, etc.;
  - Flower box/wrap;
  - Food wraps provided by grocer for meats, fish, cheese, etc.;
  - Prescription bottles filler and provided by pharmacist;
  - Paper envelopes for developed photographs; and
  - Gift wrapping/tissues added by the retailer.
- (4) Packaging components and ancillary elements integrated into packaging shall be considered as part of the packaging onto which they are integrated. Ancillary elements directly hung or attached to a product and which perform a packaging function shall be considered packaging unless they are an integral part of this product and all elements are intended to be consumed or disposed of together. Examples of packaging include, but are not limited to:
  - Labels hung directly on or attached to a product;
  - Mascara brush which forms part of the container closure;
  - Sticky labels attached to another packaging item;
  - Staples, pins, clips; and
  - Device for measuring dosage which forms part of the container closure for detergents.

### **2.1.2 Definition of Printed Papers**

As a general definition, Stewardship Ontario designates all printed paper as Blue Box waste. Printed papers covered by this definition include, but are not limited to:

- Daily, weekly, newspapers including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels;
- Daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly glossy magazines including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels;
- Product catalogues including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels;
- Directories including those paid through subscription, provided through free distribution and those purchased through retail channels;
- Lottery tickets and lottery information;
- Warranty information, assembly instructions, product use instructions and health information, product registration cards and promotional information that is found inside purchased products;
- Envelopes, statements and information inserts from banks, credit companies, utilities, service providers;
- Information, forms and promotional materials distributed by municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments;
- Business, investment and securities information (e.g., annual reports, mutual fund prospectus);
- Promotional calendars, posters that are distributed to consumers free of charge (e.g., real estate calendars);
- Greeting cards;
- Unsolicited promotional information, coupons, handbills and flyers; and
- Transportation and transit schedules.

These definitions will be reviewed annually by Stewardship Ontario using the procedure for amending rules as outlined in Section 9.18.