

GLASS PACKAGING IS READY FOR THE NEW GERMAN PACKAGING ACT



The German Packaging Act took a long time to draft and caused a number of controversial debates. Now it's approved and ready to enter into force on 1 January 2019. The Federal Association of the German Glass Industry (BV Glas) believes that the packaging material of glass will profit from the majority of the new Packaging Act's provisions. One in particular - the higher recycling quota for licensed glass - has been welcomed by the entire glass industry. It has been increased from 75 percent to 80 percent from 2019 onwards, followed by another increase to 90 percent in 2022.

Section 21 of the new Packaging Act is also associated with opportunities for the glass industry because it requires the dual systems in Germany to link their license fees to the recyclability of packaging, as well as its content of recyclates and renewable raw materials, from 2019 onwards. In the past, license fees have been based on material and mass. A minimum standard has been published on the assessment of recyclability by the Central

Packaging Registry, the new authority responsible for monitoring packaging recycling, and the German Environmental Agency. It was developed by a group of experts including representatives of BV Glas. In fact, it was at BV Glas's suggestion that blue bottles are still categorised as recyclable - because they can easily be recycled in conjunction with green glass.

"Glass is a material that can be recycled any number of times in a closed loop system without any quality loss whatsoever," explained Dr Johann Overath, Director General of BV Glas. But does the same apply to glass packaging? After all, packaging includes materials other than glass that have to be taken into account in any assessment of recyclability. BV Glas decided to find out the answer and requested the cyclos-HTP Institute to conduct a study on its behalf. The glass packaging products investigated in the study were selected to provide a (...)

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EDITORIAL



The German glass industry closed out the first six months of 2018 with growth in revenue, reflecting the stable economic upswing. Foreign demand for German glass also remains high. This is a positive development that gives us all the more reason to look forward to the glasstec fair, which opens its doors in Düsseldorf from 23 to 26 October. As one of the sponsor organisations of glasstec, BV Glas not only has its own stand at the fair, it is also participating in the glasstec conference programme.

Although glass is a popular material, its manufacturers face a number of challenges that necessitate extensive political lobbying at both national and European level. That's where BV Glas comes in. We pleaded the case for the continuation of the power grid fee reduction for the glass industry. In Brussels we lobbied against the "tiered approach" and the sub-division of the glass industry sectors into different carbon leakage risk categories, which would put the glass industry at a disadvantage in the emissions trading scheme.

We were also closely involved in the evolution of the German Packaging Ordinance into the Packaging Act and urged the legislators to increase the recycling rate. You can read more about that in the main article of this issue of GlasNews!

Kind regards,

Dr Frank Heinrich

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[...] representative sample of all available glass packaging products in the market, and it covered the segments of beverage bottles, preserve jars, glass packaging for foodstuffs, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Four criteria in particular play a decisive role in the assessment of recyclability. "First of all we determined the proportion of recyclable substances in the glass packaging products," said cyclos-HTP Managing Director Dr-Ing Joachim Christiani. This was necessary because packaging components, such as metal lid, closure, plastic, paper and ceramic parts, also have to be taken into consideration in the assessment. The glass and the metal lid of glass packaging are categorised as secondary resources and therefore recyclable, whereas the other materials are not recycled. Glass also has to satisfy certain criteria so that it can be returned to the loop. "The glass undergoes a visual check with an optical sorter before recycling. Transmittance measurements are used to identify contaminants when the glass is being prepared for recycling at the recovery facility. If the glass is opaque, the optical sorter identifies it as a contaminant and removes it from the process," continued Christiani. The metal parts are identified on the basis of their magnetic properties and electrical conductivity. If they meet those two criteria they can easily be separated and recycled.

The study results show that glass packaging generally has a very high level of recyclability and glass packaging with pure metal closures are actually 100 percent recyclable.

"This study results make it clear to us that glass packaging will continue to satisfy all the requirements of modern and recyclable packaging in the future," summarised Overath.

Consumers agree, and according to a recent Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) study on "Volume and Recycling of Packaging Waste in Germany in 2016", consumption of glass packaging has increased slightly. The recycling rate also rose by 0.3 percent to 85.5 percent. On the other hand, plastic packaging consumption has declined. The UBA criticises the high overall level of packaging consumption and states that it isn't always ecologically practical to replace plastic packaging with glass because of its high energy intensity. This assessment is somewhat surprising in light of the current debate on the low level of plastic recycling and its contamination of our oceans. According to the UBA, only 49.7 percent of plastics were recycled in Germany in 2016. The European Commission's strategy on plastics also puts plastic waste right at the top of the

political agenda.

The glass industry supports the UBA's approach of prioritising waste avoidance over recycling. Returnable glass packaging can be refilled up to 50 times before it is recycled and made into new glass packaging products. Used glass is the most important raw material in glass packaging manufacturing, and it makes a considerable contribution to reducing the energy required in the production process. Each 10 percent of recycled glass used in production reduces energy consumption by 3 percent and CO2 emissions by 3.6 percent. The proportion of recycled glass contained in new packaging products is 60 percent, and when green glass is being manufactured it is as high as 90 percent. "The fact that glass can be used in two closed loop systems should also be communicated positively to the public," urged Overath.

Since 2000 the use of glass packaging has declined substantially – by 25 percent – whereas the use of plastic packaging has increased by 74 percent. People who choose glass-packaged products and recycle them properly are helping to achieve 100 percent recycling in a closed loop system, and therefore protecting the environment.

SECTOR NEWS

A POSITIVE RESULT FOR THE GLASS INDUSTRY IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2018

The six-month figures for 2018 indicate that the glass industry is still in a steady growth phase. Although foreign sales are still the main growth driver, domestic sales have also risen slightly.



The German glass industry developed positively in the first six months of 2018, with growth in revenue of 4.4 percent to approximately EUR 5.06bn (2017: EUR 4.84bn). This growth is being driven by foreign revenue, which rose by 9.8 percent, and domestic revenue also increased slightly by 0.4 percent.

Segment results

Developments in the glass industry segments diverged in the period January to June 2018. **Flat glass manufacturers** had a very strong H1 with 6.2 percent growth in revenue up to EUR 529m (2017: EUR 498m). In contrast, the **flat glass finishing** segment experienced a slightly negative development with total revenue of EUR 1.86bn (2017: EUR 1.88bn), which represents a 1.1 percent decline. **Glass fibre** manufacturers closed out H1 2018 with revenue shrinkage of 3.0 percent to EUR

489m (2017: EUR 504m). The **special glass industry**, on the other hand, experienced strong growth, posting total revenue of EUR 813m, which is 7.6 percent higher than the H1 2017 result (EUR 755m).

Business is booming in the hollow glass segment

The hollow glass industry comprises the segments of container glass and tableware glass. In H1 2018 this sector experienced a market boom and revenue growth of 12.6 percent to EUR 1.36bn (2017: EUR 1.21bn).

BV-Glas President Dr Frank Heinrich commented: "The six month figures for the glass industry indicate sustained demand for glass; a material that many applications in our everyday lives would be impossible to conceive without. The glasstec fair will also clearly demon-

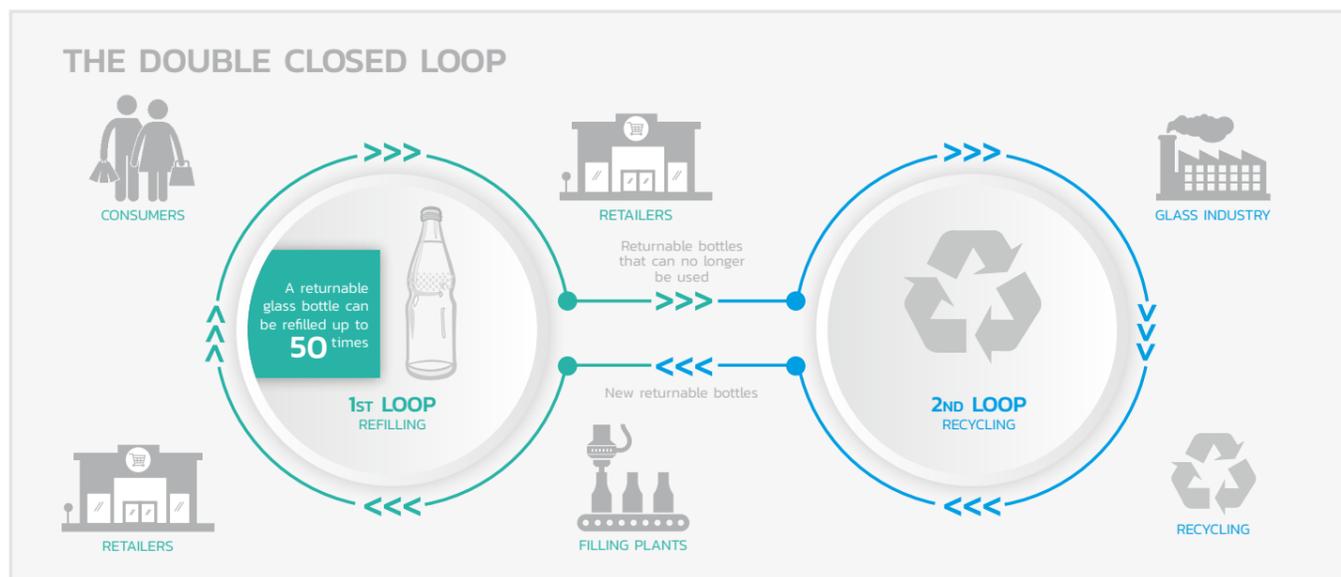
strate that glass is on trend! We're optimistic that the positive developments in H1 will continue over the remaining months of the year!"

BV Glas is a glasstec sponsor organisation with its own stand no. E22 in hall 10. On 23 October BV Glas is hosting the afternoon session at the glasstec conference entitled "Environmental and Climate Policy in Germany & Europe – Challenges, Opportunities and Risks for the Glass Industry".

glasstec

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FOR GLASS PRODUCTION • PROCESSING • PRODUCTS

23-26 OCTOBER 2018 DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY



ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE GLASS INDUSTRY:

BV GLAS IS INVOLVED IN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Energy efficiency is a key issue in the glass industry and considerable efforts have been made in recent years to improve the efficiency and eco-friendliness of production processes. ISO 50001-certified energy management systems have long been the industry standard. Even though the glass industry's energy efficiency is already more or less at the maximum possible level, the Federal Association of the German Glass Industry and its members are committed to exploiting all the options available to achieve the absolute maximum potential savings.

BV Glas joins "IN4climate.NRW"

IN4climate.NRW, an initiative of North Rhine-Westphalia's Minister for Economic Affairs & Energy, Dr Andreas Pinkwart, has the objectives of sustaining competitiveness, generating additional growth and attaining the Paris climate protection targets. The strategies necessary to achieving those objectives will be developed over the next four years by "Innovation Teams" of business and trade association experts, members of the scientific community and public sector representatives. BV Glas contributes glass industry expertise to the initiative for North Rhine-Westphalia, where flat glass, container glass and tableware glass manufacturing companies can be found.

German government pays tribute to the glass industry's energy efficiency network

The glass industry has been consistently optimising the energy efficiency of its production processes for many years. In 2014, BV Glas joined the nationwide Energy Efficiency Networks initiative. Since then, five energy efficiency networks have been established. This year one of those



networks, the GlasNET 2.0 energy efficiency network, won an award from the German government for successfully participating in the Energy Efficiency Networks initiative. The government paid tribute to the enterprises in the network for their efforts to improve energy efficiency and tap into their know-how transfer potential.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy has initiated a research project entitled "Industrial energy transition: potentials, costs and interactions with the energy sector"

This recent ministry project takes advantage of the expertise of the glass industry and BV Glas. The glass industry and the other energy intensive industries are the focus of a survey that will deliver scientific knowledge as the basis for the further development of German energy policy in order to achieve a successful energy transition. A participation process has been initiated to gain key insights into the interactions between industrial development and energy supply with a view to achieving

energy, climate and industrial policy objectives. It will ensure that technical potential and the economic framework are adequately taken into account in the development of future energy and economic policies.

IMPRINT

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