

After lengthy negotiations,

... we reached agreement at the beginning of the year with the Swedish municipalities on how to develop our partnership. Since the agreement is based on retained producer responsibility, we were able to put an end to the long-standing debate as to whether the municipalities should take responsibility for collection and be able to forward the costs to the producers. With that question out of the way, we are finally able to focus on our respective tasks and on solving common problems.

A main reason for the government initiating negotiations was the need to reduce the volumes, and thus the costs, of materials that incorrectly end up in our respective systems. Despite the fact that we are among the world's best recycling countries, slightly more than 20 percent of all packaging and newspapers are wasted by ending up in municipal waste systems, thus increasing the costs. At the same time, we are forced to clean out municipal waste, such as household garbage and bulky refuse from our recycling stations at a cost of nearly SEK 60 million per year. Added to this is all imported glass for which there is no producer responsibility but which nonetheless ends up in glass recycling.

For our part, we intend to take a service initiative that includes rural areas, improvements and other measures that will enable households to sort more. In parallel, the municipalities will improve their bulk refuse service and integrate recycling in their waste planning in a better manner.

We are also establishing a joint forum – Recycling Forum – for research and information projects, but also as a place where local disputes and other operational issues can be addressed. In summary, the agreement provides a starting point for us as producers to obtain more and better recycling for the money that is invested. We are thus taking an even more valuable initiative for consumers, municipalities and, most importantly, the environment.

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Review of the meat and butchery and animal feed industries

To ensure competition neutrality within industries, REPA conducts reviews of various key industries. It is important that all companies take joint responsibility for the costs that arise when packaging is collected and reclaimed. During the spring, there will be a review of companies in the meat and butchery and the animal feed industries. Affected companies that are not affiliated with REPA will be contacted for reconciliation. In conjunction with reconciliation, the companies will receive information about the Producer Responsibility Act and be provided an opportunity to fulfill their producer responsibility through affiliation with REPA. This work is expected to be completed in June.

Nearly 9,700 companies take producer responsibility through REPA

At December 31, 2008, 9,693 companies were affiliated with REPA. During 2008, 629 companies were newly affiliated, while 269 were deregistered, resulting in a net increase of 360 companies or 3.9 percent. Extra measures were taken to increase new affiliation that included employing a person to focus on contacting companies that can be assumed to be subject to producer responsibility for packaging. Most companies appreciate this contact and that REPA helps them to comply with legislation.

Exchange of experience within PRO-Europe

Through communication to households, we can influence the willingness and the accuracy with which people sort packaging. This is work that takes place among all the corresponding organizations throughout Europe. To share this experience and to be able to learn from each other's information projects, PRO Europe, REPA's European umbrella organization, arranged a workshop on this subject in March in Stockholm. REPA/FTI hosted the workshop and was also able to present the work that has been done over the past year in Sweden.



Project employment at REPA

Lisabet Ahlqvist-Lindell is a project employee at REPA during the period February 1 to August 31. Her primary assignment is to contact and visit newly affiliated companies to help them get started with their reporting to REPA. Lisbet will also participate in various internal projects. Previously, Lisbet worked within the food industry at various companies.

Packaging fees

Metals, cans > 16 cm in diameter	SEK 0.45/kg
Metals, aluminium, other	SEK 0.75/kg
Metals, steel plate, other	SEK 0.75/kg
Metals, drums	SEK 0.06/kg
Metals, steel band and wire	SEK 0.20/kg
Cardboard/paper, beverage carton ¹	SEK 0.50/kg
Cardboard/paper, other	SEK 0.35/kg
Cardboard/paper, certain industrial packaging ²	SEK 0.02/kg
Corrugated board ³	SEK 0.02 - 0.75/kg
Corrugated board, service packaging ⁴	SEK 0.45/kg
Plastics, commercial packaging ⁵	SEK 0.00/kg
Plastics, other (household)	SEK 1.25/kg
Plastics, service and grower packaging ⁶	SEK 1.13/kg

1) E.g. juice and milk packaging, cartons for soup etc.

2) That is shells and paper tubes (paper cores in the center of rolls) except those which could end up with the consumer. Molded pulp drums. End covers and wrapping paper for large paper rolls delivered from paper mills.

3) The fee payable is printed on the reporting form and depends on the company's operating sector.

4) Service packaging refers to packaging that is mainly "filled" in the store/restaurant (e.g. pizza cartons made of corrugated board) or by consumers themselves

5) Commercial packaging means plastic packaging for goods that are not intended for individual consumer use. Amounts shall be shown despite the fact that the fee is SEK 0.00/kg.

6) Service packaging refers to plastic packaging that is mainly "filled" in the store/restaurant or by consumers themselves, for example bags on roll, carrier bags and cling film. Grower packaging refers to plastic packaging that is used for packaging mainly unprocessed products from agriculture, market-gardening and the like for example cucumber film, lettuce film and plastic bags for carrots.

REPA – part of FTI

Since August 1, 2007 REPA's operations were transferred to FTI - Förpacknings- och Tidningsinsamling (Packaging and Newspaper Collection). In practice, this has not involved any change for customers in REPA. REPA is retained as a brand and a subsidiary of FTI. The mission of FTI is to ensure that all packaging and newspapers in Sweden are collected and recycled. We are responsible for about 5,800 collection stations in the country where households can deposit their packaging and newspapers. FTI is a non-profit organization.



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