

Textile waste generation within the EU is on the rise, yet its management still fails to adhere to the waste hierarchy principles. An EU citizen produces, on average, 12 kilograms of textile waste per year, the vast majority of which is incinerated or landfilled. To turn the tide of this trend, in July 2023, the European Commission put forth [a proposal for a revision of the Waste Framework Directive](#). National extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles are part of the presented solution.

National EPR schemes are currently in place for batteries, accumulators, electronics and packaging. The main objective of EPR schemes is to ensure that companies that place products in the market bear responsibility for the costs associated with the management of their products at the end of the products' life cycle. Typically, end-of-life management is carried out by producer responsibility organizations (PROs) for a fee. Building on the existing schemes, the EU Commission has proposed a similar mechanism for textiles.

### Products in Scope

In an effort to curb the increasing generation of textile waste, the proposal specifically targets products deemed by the EU Commission to be the most problematic within the fashion industry, e.g.:

- Clothing items made from textiles (such as suits, jackets, blazers, dresses, skirts)
- Household textile products (such as blankets, curtains and table linen)
- Clothing accessories made from textiles (such as hats, headbands and similar accessories)
- Footwear and clothing accessories primarily of materials other than textiles (such as leather gloves, belts, tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes)

(The list of products is more extensive; the above simply provides examples.)

### Entities Covered by the EPR

Extended liability will be borne by "textile producers." The proposal in principle defines the term "textile producers" very broadly – as the manufacturer, importer or distributor or other natural or legal person that:

Based in EU	Type of Activity Performed	Place of Performing the Activity
✓	Manufactures products under its own name or trademark and supplies them for the first time	In the Member State of its establishment
✓	Has products designed or manufactured by another entity and supplies them for the first time under its own name or trademark	In the Member State of its establishment
✓	Resells, under its own name or trademark, products manufactured by producer in Line 1 or 2 above, without any indication of the manufacturer's name, brand, or trademark	In the Member State of its establishment
✓	Supplies, for the first time, products from another member state or from a third country on a professional basis	In the Member State of its establishment
✓	Sells products by means of distance communication directly to end users (including private households)	To another Member State
✗	Sells products by means of distance communication directly to end users (including private households)	To any Member State

## EPR – Costs

In line with the proposal, a national EPR scheme would cover a wide range of expenses. It should particularly include expenses related to separate collection, transport, sorting, preparation for reuse, recycling or other treatments and recovery operations for products at their end-of-life stage. In addition, the EPR for textiles would cover expenses associated with the collection and statutory reporting of data, but it should also contribute to R&D initiatives aimed at enhancing the sorting and recycling processes. The proposed measures will apply to products introduced to the market within a Member State following the proposal's enforcement.

## National Registers for Textile Producers

As one of the proposed measures, the proposal suggests establishment of national registers of textile, textile-related and footwear producers in all EU Member States. These registers would contain essential information, including:

- Complete details of the producer, including name, postal address, website, email addresses and designated individual for communication
- Producer's national identification code, along with the EU or national tax identification number
- Trademarks and brand names linked to the producer
- Combined nomenclature numbers for the products intended for market release

Member States will be required to confirm the registration of producers or their authorized representatives before allowing their products to enter the market.

## State of Play

The initiative was sent to the European Parliament and Council for examination, and next steps of legislative procedure will begin soon. Once adopted, the proposal will come into force on the 20th day after its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The Member States will be required to:

- Transpose relevant provisions into national laws within 18 months following entry into force of the proposal
- Ensure that the EPR schemes are in place within 30 months following entry into force of the proposal.



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