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PackUK posts final 2026/27 packaging fees for producers online

The charges apply from April 1, 2026, with harder-to-recycle packaging carrying higher costs under the producer responsibility regime

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PackUK said on Wednesday, November 25, that the United Kingdom’s confirmed 2026/27 fees under the packaging extended producer responsibility regime are now available through the online packaging producer charge calculator, giving registered producers the final charges they must pay for packaging placed on the market.

The charges are set out in the 2026/27 Packaging Producer Responsibility Fees Notice, according to the government notice published on GOV.UK. PackUK said the fees apply from April 1, 2026 and are intended to push companies toward packaging that is easier to recycle, contains more recycled material and generates less waste.

Under the system, charges continue to be linked to the recyclability of packaging. PackUK said producers using packaging that meets recycling criteria will face lower fees, while packaging that is harder or impossible to recycle will carry higher charges. The fees also vary by material, meaning the cost impact will differ depending on whether a producer uses glass, plastic, metal, paper or other formats.

The government said the fee structure is meant to reward design choices that improve recyclability. That approach turns packaging design into a direct cost issue for businesses, rather than only a compliance issue. Producers are being told to review the calculator to understand their liabilities for the 2026/27 compliance year and to take those costs into account when deciding what materials and formats to use.

The announcement is likely to matter across consumer goods industries, but it may be especially significant for beverage companies because packaging is a central part of how wine, beer, spirits and soft drinks are sold and shipped. Producers and importers in those sectors often rely on large volumes of glass bottles, aluminum cans, plastic containers, labels, caps and secondary packaging. As a result, changes in fee levels tied to recyclability could affect their compliance costs and, over time, shape decisions about whether to keep existing formats or move toward alternatives that attract lower charges.

For beverage companies that import products into the U.K., the confirmed fees may also become part of broader pricing and sourcing decisions. A business selling bottled wine, canned beer or packaged spirits may need to weigh not only the cost of the drink itself, but also the charge attached to the bottle, can, closure or wrap under the

producer responsibility system. Companies that have already invested in packaging designed to meet recycling criteria could see a relative cost advantage over those still using formats that are harder to process in the waste system.

The government notice did not set out the detailed charges in the text of the announcement itself, but directed producers to the online charge calculator and related compliance tools and guidance on GOV.UK. That means companies will need to check the official schedule and calculator to determine the exact effect on their own product lines.

The publication of the confirmed fees gives producers a firmer basis for compliance planning after a period in which businesses across the packaging supply chain have been watching how the U.K.’s extended producer responsibility framework would translate into actual costs. By tying the charges to recyclability, the government is using the fee system as a policy tool to shift packaging choices, with the financial burden falling more heavily on materials and formats that perform poorly in the recycling system.