

CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

The EU Tethered Bottle Cap Regulation

In an attempt to reduce the amount of plastic that leaks out of the recycling system, the EU is imposing a new regulation for single use plastics.

Part of that regulation, Article 6, requires companies to redesign all plastic containers up to 3 liters that use a plastic closure to ensure that closure is tethered to the bottle and cannot be detached.

This ambitious regulation is causing a stir in the Beverage industry. While the goals of Article 6 are aimed at reducing plastic deposited into marine environments, many are questioning if they're realistic. Let's take a look at the goals vs challenges of this 2024 regulation.

Goal: Article 6 aims to reduce litter by avoiding plastic caps being removed and lost throughout end of life

Challenges

Lack of Available Technology

Lack of Performance Requirements

Lack of Collaborative Efforts

Burden on internal packaging resources

Vs.

Solutions

Companies will be required to redesign new closures (or use one of the existing designs) and retool manufacturing to accommodate these new designs

Standards must be set for strength of tether, number of times a closure should be able to be opened without disconnecting from the tamper band, application, interference, etc.

Committees should be formed to make decisions on standardization and minimum requirements of solution

Hire consultants to advise and execute design, retooling, optimization and efficiency projects



Many of the leading beverage companies feel that focusing on improving the effectiveness of current collection schemes would be a better allocation of resources than enforcing the tethered caps initiative.

As companies work to reduce the impact of packaging on the environment, likely more regulations will be released in the near future. Regardless of where your company is at on the roadmap to reducing your carbon footprint, our sustainability experts can help.



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