



Swiss Association
for Quality and Management
Systems (SQS)



Swiss R-PET Label

Certification of Swiss R-PET in PET drink bottles

Motivation

The Verein PET-Recycling Schweiz was founded in 1990 and has been engaged in collecting PET drink bottles since the Beverage Container Ordinance (BCO) came into effect. Today it provides a disposal network for PET drink bottles throughout Switzerland. Ninety-eight per cent of Swiss beverage producers, importers, fillers, and retailers are meanwhile members of the collection system run by the industry organisation PET-Recycling Schweiz.

However, recycling is only successful if the collected and reprocessed material returns into circulation. The empty PET drink bottles are therefore processed into clean, high-quality, and food-safe material: Swiss Recycling PET (R-PET). This valuable resource is used to manufacture new Swiss PET drink bottles. As a result, the material cycle is closed (bottle to bottle) and recycling back into circulation truly takes place. According to the study by Carbotech, recycling in a closed cycle is 2.4 times more environmentally friendly than conventional recycling for one-time reuse.

Objective and target group

Members of PET-Recycling Schweiz have the opportunity to mark PET drink bottles made from Swiss Recycling PET with an externally verified label.

The label

- provides a uniform seal of quality which confirms that the R-PET used is a purely Swiss product, whose entire manufacturing process – from collection through sorting to use – takes place in Switzerland;
- is awarded exclusively to members of PET-Recycling Schweiz;
- is awarded exclusively for PET drink bottles with a Swiss R-PET component (no other packaging made from PET);
- indicates for each product the quantitative portion of R-PET (as a percentage) in the PET drink bottle;
- creates transparency, represents a quality promise, and makes PET drink bottles ecologically comparable with other PET beverage containers. It is intended to provide a reference to consumers when shopping.





The company certificate

- attests to the environmental benefits achieved through the use of Swiss R-PET (instead of 100% virgin PET) for each beverage producer (for the entire company);
- indicates the saving of CO₂ emissions, crude oil, and energy (measured by the use of Swiss R-PET material compared to 100% virgin PET);
- shows items from the previous reporting year. Collection takes place retrospectively, at the beginning of the following reporting year.



Validity

The validity of the certificate and its associated use amounts to one year.

Recognition

The Swiss R-PET label is a uniform recycling label recognised throughout Switzerland.

Verification

- The proportion of R-PET stated on the label is verified by the beverage producer by way of a one-off audit at the beginning of the year. The beverage producer undertakes to report any changes to the proportion of R-PET promptly.
- Alternatively, the beverage producer can apply for the company certificate only, or in connection with the Swiss R-PET label. In this case, a one-time audit is performed at the start of the following reporting year to verify compliance with the certification standards.

Award

The Swiss R-PET label and the environmental certificate are awarded by the Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems (SQS).

Costs

The costs for awarding the Swiss R-PET label and the environmental certificate are assumed by the beverage producer that receives the certification.

Contact

You can obtain further information from our office branch in Zollikofen.

For technical information, you can also contact our auditors.

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