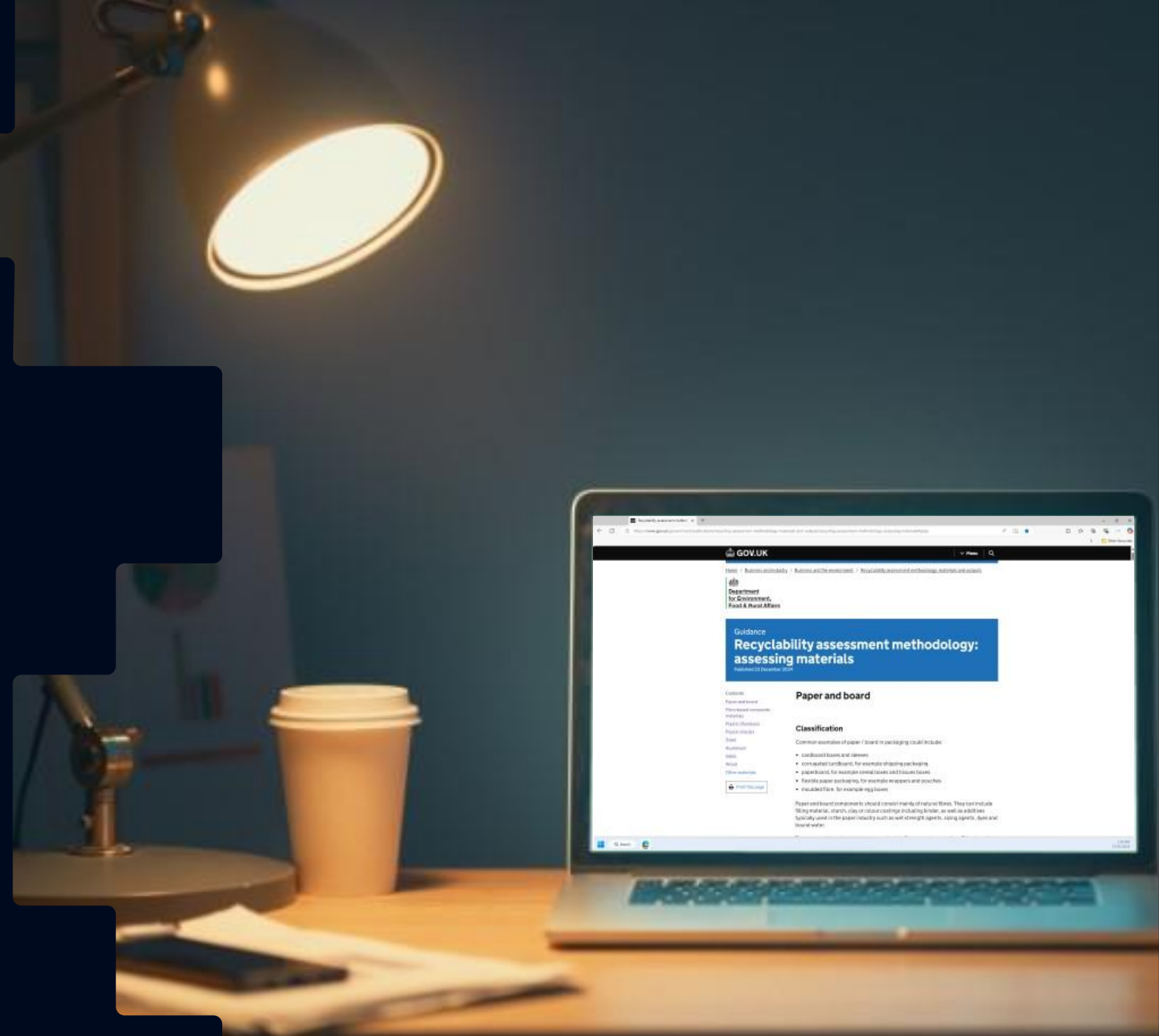# Preparing for the EPR Recyclability Assessment Methodology (RAM)

What your business needs to know

January 2025

ECOSURETY

Agenda

1 Introduction

2 Context of the RAM

3 Applying the RAM

4 Where to start

5 Q&A

Introduction

PACKAGING COMPLIANCE
REDEFINED

We're a packaging compliance scheme with a clear purpose - **to accelerate change towards an environmentally and socially sustainable world.**

It pushes us to make a better impact, to challenge the status quo and to seek collaborative opportunities where we can make positive, meaningful change happen.

Context of the RAM

What is the RAM?

The RAM was designed to:

- help **determine current packaging recyclability**

- **inform the appropriate Waste Management Fee eco-modulation** category:

  - o Red
  - o Amber
  - o Green

It is intended to **incentivise the use of more recyclable packaging.**

Reporting

**2025
October**
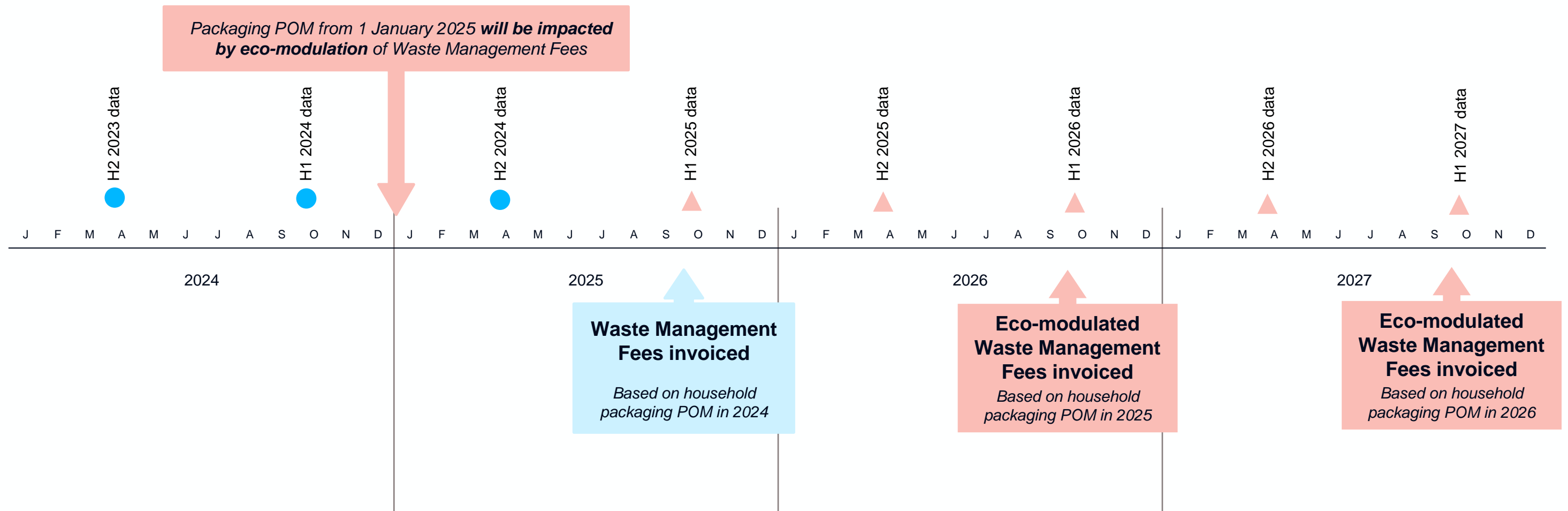
First data submission including recyclability assessment due

- Large producers will be required to **submit recyclability assessment data** for all **household packaging** placed on the market

- **Submitted with the EPR submission** through the RPD service

Context: EPR regulation dates

Packaging POM from 1 January 2025 **will be impacted by eco-modulation** of Waste Management Fees

H2 2023 data

H1 2024 data

H2 2024 data

H1 2025 data

H2 2025 data

H1 2026 data

H2 2026 data

H1 2027 data

J F M A M J J A S O N D | J F M A M J J A S O N D | J F M A M J J A S O N D | J F M A M J J A S O N D

2024

2025

2026

2027

Waste Management Fees invoiced

Based on household packaging POM in 2024

Eco-modulated Waste Management Fees invoiced

Based on household packaging POM in 2025

Eco-modulated Waste Management Fees invoiced

Based on household packaging POM in 2026

NOTE: This slide relates to Waste Management Fees & reporting obligations for large producers only. Large producers will also be obligated to continue paying for Packaging Recycling Notes (PRNs).

KEY

● EPR submission due

▲ EPR submission due, including RAM results

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RAM outputs

RED

Packaging has specifications that make it **difficult to recycle** at scale.

AMBER

Packaging may **experience challenges** during collection and sortation, requires specialist infrastructure for reprocessing, the efficiency and output quality of reprocessing is affected, or there is some secondary material loss.

GREEN

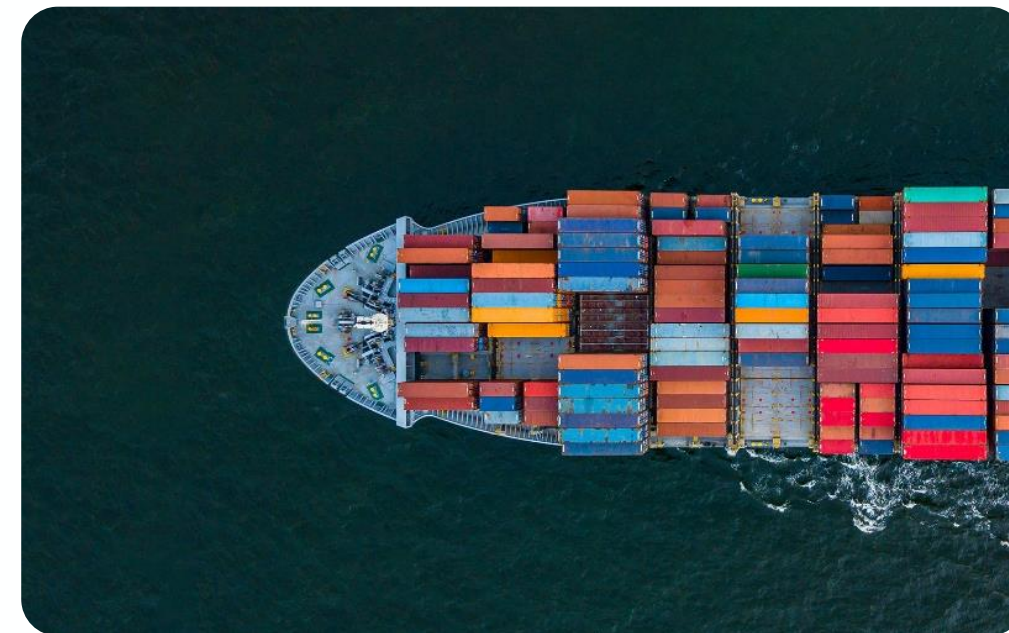Packaging is **widely recyclable** in the current UK infrastructure.

What is the RAM applicable to?

The RAM is only applicable to **household packaging**.

Exemptions:

Where packaging is **reused**
(other than reusable packaging
imported into the UK)

Packaging **exported** from
the UK by the producer

Governance

- RAM will be **reviewed** & **updated annually** by the appointed **Technical Advisory Committee** (TAC)

- This will allow for innovation, evolving market conditions and regulatory changes

Applying the RAM

Applying the RAM

The RAM must be **applied individually to components that are easily separated by hand**.

> **Component**: refers to the different parts of a whole packaging unit that are separable by hand without the need for tools or excessive force.

For materials that are not easily separable, these should be processed together in the RAM.
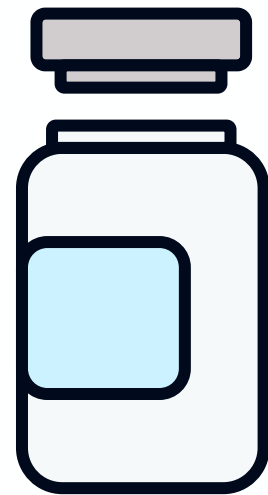
Applying the RAM

Scenarios where different RAM assessments are required:

Packaging that is not a drinks container under DRS

Example
Glass jar with a paper label and metal lid = **2 assessments**

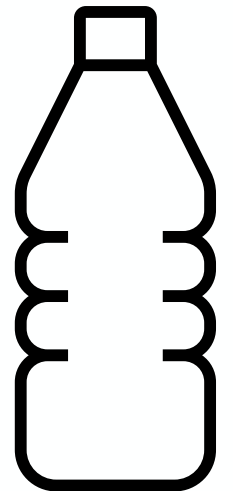1. Jar with the label
2. Lid

Except…

Packaging that is a (non-glass) drinks container under DRS

Example
A plastic bottle with a plastic lid = **1 assessment**

1. Bottle with lid
   Conducted based on the material classification of the predominant material by weight.
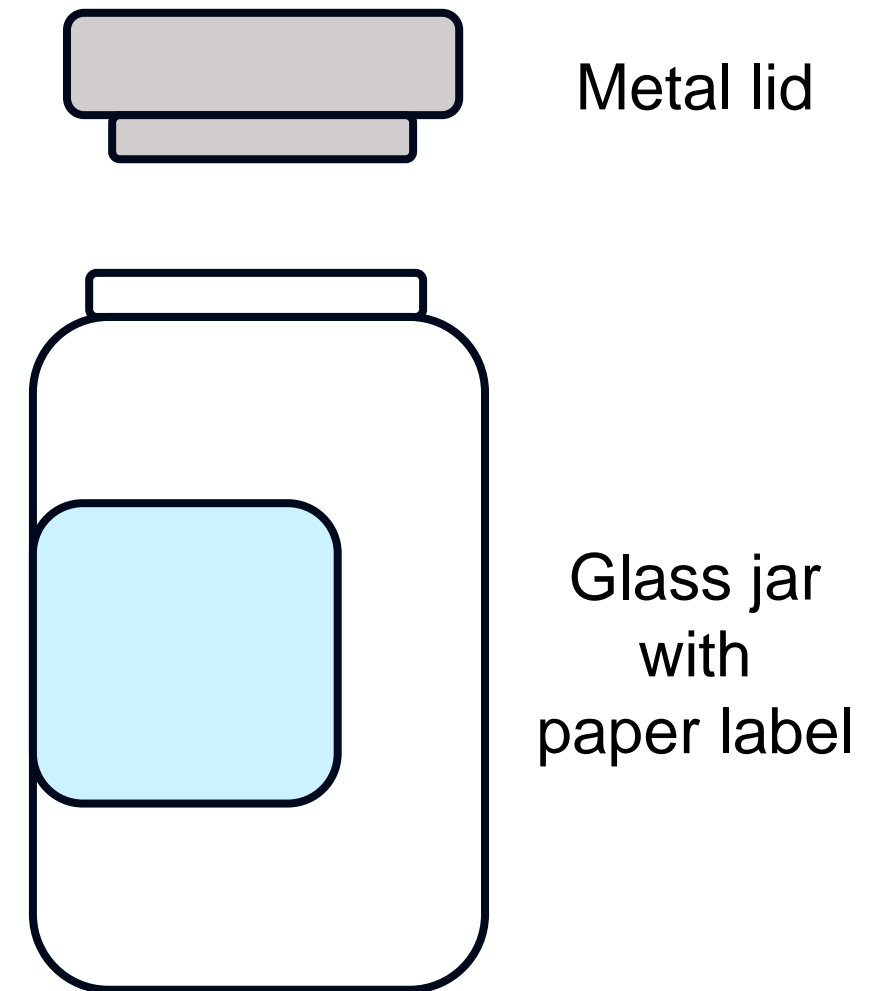
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Applying the RAM

Secondary material that cannot be separated inherits a RAG result.

Example

When assessing this glass jar, the paper label would be considered in how it impacts the recyclability of the glass jar.

If the result for the glass jar is GREEN, the paper label will inherit this GREEN result.

Metal lid

Glass jar with paper label

Automatic 'red' result – problematic packaging

Integrated electrical components or batteries that would be classed as Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) - for example, boxes that include LED lights
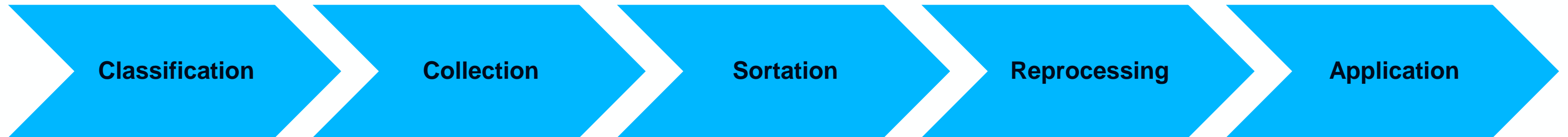
Inks that are **manufactured in compliance with the EuPIA** Exclusion Policy for Printing Inks and Related products

Any of the **substances of very high concern** (SVHC) under UK REACH

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that have been **intentionally added**

Stages of the RAM

Classification → Collection → Sortation → Reprocessing → Application

Materials

Paper and board

Plastic (flexible)

Steel

Glass

Other

Fibre-based composite

Plastic (rigid)

Aluminium

Wood

Watch out for material classifications for the RAM

Paper & Board

Fibre-based Composite

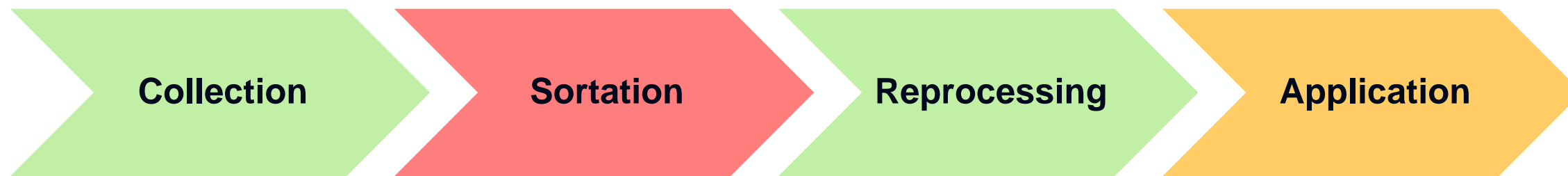$\leq$ 5% plastic by weight

> 5% plastic by weight

Paper content can be determined by:

Paper content (w%) = (fibre + filler + water + additive + colour coating) (gsm) **/** total mass (gsm)
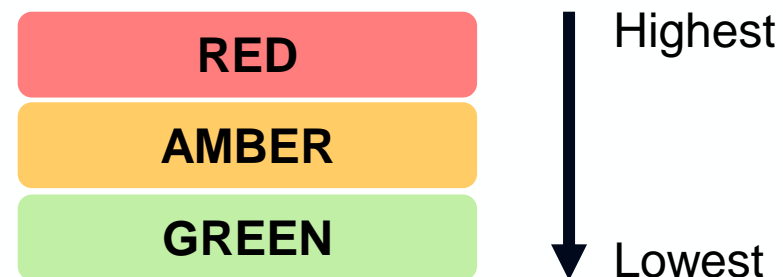
Example RAG results

A component may receive a different RAG result at each stage of the RAM.

Collection	Sortation	Reprocessing	Application

The highest result to appear will be what category the related packaging metrics need to be reported under:

RED	Highest
AMBER	
GREEN	Lowest

Where to start

Where to start

1. Identify what main packaging materials you have

2. Understand what will impact the RAG result

3. Identify gaps in your packaging data

4. Ensure you have evidence to back up RAG result claims

5. Request required detail from packaging suppliers

Next steps:
Focus on packaging resulting in 'red' or 'amber' RAG outcome to improve recyclability.

Q&A

Q&A

Louisa Goodfellow

Policy Manager

ECOSURETY

Alison Appleby

Packaging Sustainability
Specialist

Thank you

ECOSURETY

0333 4330 370
info@ecosurety.com
www.ecosurety.com