



Romania – packaging EPR

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Status ● Draft, not yet peer-checked

THE SHORT VERSION

We will be blunt about Romania, because a confident-sounding page here would do more harm than an honest one. The **obligations are clear** — packaging EPR targets, environmental-fund declarations, monthly filing by the 25th. The **route for a foreign micro-seller is not**. There is no single public packaging register comparable to other member states, AFM's platform needs an enrolled person with a qualified electronic signature, and no dedicated onboarding path has been published. Our advice: do not begin routine shipping until an OIREP or a Romanian specialist has confirmed your structure **in writing**.

Does it apply to me?

Romania's principal packaging law is **Law No. 249/2015** on packaging and packaging-waste management, as amended. It applies to **all** packaging placed on the market, regardless of material or use. Producers must meet annual recovery and recycling objectives and maintain evidence of the quantities placed on the Romanian market.

You ship to Romanian consumers, no Romanian establishment

You fall within the PPWR producer definition. What is unclear is the mechanism, not the duty.

You're established elsewhere in the EU

Caught by **Art. 45(3)** first sentence, no threshold.

You're established outside the EU

Also within [Art. 45\(3\)](#) 's reach as a matter of the Regulation's structure; whether Romania took the second-sentence option is **not published**. Assume owed.

You only sell small quantities

No general exemption identified for micro-businesses or small quantities.

You sell beverages

Romania's deposit-return system, RetuRO, has separate registration, marking and deposit rules. Ordinary postal packaging is generally outside it.

This desk covers EPR only. Everything below is the **producer** role. If your own name, logo or brand is on the packaging, PPWR also makes you the **manufacturer** of it: a separate set of EU-level conformity duties that took effect on 12 August 2026 and is not country-specific. See [manufacturer or producer?](#)

The unresolved question

Every desk in this series has a section admitting what we do not know. In Romania that section is the centre of the page rather than the end of it.

Question	Answer
Are there packaging EPR obligations?	Yes. Law 249/2015, clearly
Are there environmental-fund duties?	Yes. OUG 196/2005, separately
Are there licensed organisations?	Yes. OIREPs, overseen by the Packaging Supervisory Commission
Is there one simple public packaging register for a foreign micro-seller?	No — not comparable to other member states
Is there a published foreign-producer onboarding route?	No dedicated route identified
Do you need a Romanian tax registration, fiscal representative, local entity, or an Art. 45(3) representative?	Unresolved. Possibly some combination

This is the only desk where our practical advice is to stop. Not because the obligation is unclear — it is not — but because the structure you need is genuinely unresolved and getting it wrong means building an arrangement you have to unpick. Obtain written confirmation from AFM and your chosen OIREP on the producer, fiscal, representative and declaration route before routine shipping begins.

None of which is a defence. Art . 44(4) forbids making packaging available before registration and does not pause while a member state's procedures catch up. The unclear route raises your practical risk; it does not reduce your duty.

Two regimes, two instruments

Romania runs packaging through two separate legal instruments with two separate sets of duties, and conflating them is the commonest structural error.

	Packaging EPR	Environmental Fund
Instrument	Law No. 249/2015	Emergency Ordinance No. 196/2005
What it requires	Annual recovery and recycling objectives; packaging data under the national system	Declaration and payment duties to AFM
Who runs it	Ministry of Environment; OIREPs; Packaging Supervisory Commission	AFM — Environmental Fund Administration, via eTax
Rhythm	Annual objectives, national data reporting	Commonly monthly , by the 25th

Enforcement adds a third body: the **National Environmental Guard**. And **SIATD** is the packaging-waste traceability system sitting alongside all of it.

An OIREP contract is not complete compliance. The producer may still retain registration, data, declaration, payment and audit duties under AFM and packaging law. Read your contract for what it actually transfers rather than assuming it covers the AFM side.

The OIREP route

A producer may fulfil packaging-waste objectives **individually** or transfer responsibility by contract to a licensed **OIREP** — a producer responsibility organisation. For a small overseas business collective compliance is the realistic route.

Identify current organisations through the Ministry's **Packaging Supervisory Commission** oversight page, and confirm licence status directly before contracting. Commercial scheme lists go stale, and this is a market where that matters.

The contract should state, explicitly:

- which packaging categories and quantities are covered
- what data you must supply, and when
- whether the OIREP supports your AFM and annual reporting obligations

Ask the gating question first. Does this OIREP accept a foreign producer with no Romanian establishment — and what local tax, AFM or representative details does it require? That answer determines your whole structure, and it is better obtained in an email than discovered in month three.

The RON 2/kg figure

You will see this quoted as Romania's packaging EPR rate. It is not a rate.

It is a shortfall contribution, not a tariff

Emergency Ordinance No. 196/2005 provides for a contribution of **RON 2 per kilogram** applied to the packaging quantities corresponding to **unmet annual recovery or recycling objectives** — the gap between the target and what was actually achieved. It is not charged on every kilogram you place on the market.

The distinction matters in both directions. Quoting it as a flat tariff makes Romania look far more expensive than it is for a compliant producer — and it makes the actual risk invisible, because a shortfall charge is unpredictable in a way a per-kilogram fee is not.

The practical consequence is that **your OIREP's performance is your financial exposure**. If the organisation you joined misses its objectives, the shortfall mechanism is what follows. That is the same structural risk we flag in Bulgaria, where a scheme's failure to meet targets can make its members liable for the state product fee — and the same defence applies: ask about published target performance before you sign, not after.

Monthly, by the 25th

AFM environmental-fund declarations are submitted electronically. Depending on the obligation, packaging quantities and contributions are **commonly declared monthly**, with filing and payment generally due by the **25th of the following month**.

Law No. 249/2015 separately requires packaging and packaging-waste data to be reported under the national data system. The exact division of reporting between you and your OIREP must be confirmed **contractually** — it is not fixed by law and it is not the same with every organisation.

Monthly puts Romania alongside Croatia as the most demanding rhythm in these desks. A process built for annual EPR filing will not survive it, and the failure mode is silent: you stop filing in month three and find out much later. Keep monthly records by material, category and weight from the first shipment.

What it costs

Item	What we have
OIREP membership or service fee	Commercial, contractual
Material-based EPR charges	By the OIREP's tariff
Romanian representative or fiscal administration	Commercial — and possibly more than one role
Qualified electronic signature	Required for AFM eTax enrolment
Reporting and administration	Monthly, so higher than an annual market
AFM shortfall contribution	RON 2/kg on unmet objectives — a risk, not a line item

Romania is the market where the **administrative** cost most clearly exceeds the **tariff** cost for a small seller. Monthly filing, a qualified electronic signature, a fiscal structure to establish and possibly two separate local roles to pay for — against a packaging volume that might be a few hundred kilograms.

The representative

From 12 August 2026 Art . 45 (3) requires a producer established in another member state or a third country selling packaged products directly to Romanian end users to appoint an EPR authorised representative established in Romania.

Romania's pre-PPWR public guidance does not provide a clear, dedicated authorised-representative onboarding route for every foreign distance seller. So the mandate is a private document and its scope is your problem to define. Agree in writing:

- the EPR duties the representative carries
- its **AFM access** — who enrolls, on whose electronic signature
- its interaction with your OIREP, and who files what

Those three are separate arrangements that people assume are one. A

representative that has no AFM access has not solved your monthly declaration. An OIREP contract does not make anyone your Art. 45(3) representative.

Labelling and RetuRO

Romanian EPR compliance does not create a universal symbol that must be printed on every parcel. Packaging material identification may be used under the applicable EU identification system.

Beverage packaging inside Romania's deposit-return system has separate **RetuRO** registration, marking and deposit rules. Ordinary postal packaging for non-beverage goods is generally outside that system — but if you sell drinks in scope containers, treat RetuRO as an entirely separate workstream.

The EU harmonised sorting label under Art. 12(1) applies from **12 August 2028** at the earliest, with the artwork fixed by implementing acts. Do not design for it yet.

If you don't

Romania combines producer-responsibility targets, AFM tax-style declarations, potential RON 2/kg shortfall contributions, inspections and licensed OIREP oversight. Enforcement involves the National Environmental Guard as well as AFM.

The honest summary is that the administrative route for a foreign micro-seller is **less transparent** than in most member states, which increases practical risk rather than removing the obligation. Opacity is not leniency — it is uncertainty about how you will be found and what you will be asked for.

And Art. 44(4) applies here as everywhere: no making available before the register entry exists.

Known traps

Quoting RON 2/kg as the cost of Romanian EPR

It is a shortfall contribution on **unmet** recovery or recycling objectives, not a per-kilogram tariff. Budgeting from it is wrong in both directions.

Treating an OIREP contract as complete compliance

You may still retain registration, data, declaration, payment and audit duties under AFM and packaging law. Two instruments, two sets of obligations.

Building for annual filing

AFM declarations are commonly monthly, by the 25th of the following month. Alongside Croatia, this is the tightest rhythm in these desks.

Assuming your representative has AFM access

eTax needs an enrolled authorised person with a qualified electronic signature. Agree explicitly who that is and on whose signature.

Starting to ship while the structure is unresolved

The one market where we would say wait. Get the producer, fiscal, representative and declaration route confirmed in writing before volume begins.

Choosing an OIREP on price without asking about targets

Its performance against the recovery objectives is what determines whether the shortfall mechanism ever reaches you.

Sources

The two Romanian instruments and AFM carry this page. Where no published answer exists we have said so rather than inferring one — Romania is the desk where that discipline matters most.

- 1** **AFM — Environmental Fund Administration** (<https://www.afm.ro/>)
Official. Source for the eTax platform used for environmental-fund declarations, for enrolment requiring an authorised person with a qualified electronic signature, and for declarations and payment commonly being monthly with filing due by the 25th of the following month
 - 2** **Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests — Packaging Supervisory Commission** (<https://www.mmediu.ro/>)
Official. The oversight page identifying licensed OIREP organisations. Confirm current licence status directly before contracting
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- 3** [Law No. 249/2015 on packaging and packaging-waste management](https://legislatie.just.ro/) (https://legislatie.just.ro/)
The national packaging statute, as amended. Applies to all packaging placed on the market regardless of material or use, and requires annual recovery and recycling objectives and evidence of quantities placed on the Romanian market

- 4** [Emergency Ordinance No. 196/2005 on the Environmental Fund](https://legislatie.just.ro/) (https://legislatie.just.ro/)
The separate declaration and financial regime. Source for the RON 2/kg contribution applied to packaging quantities corresponding to unmet annual recovery or recycling objectives

- 5** [Regulation \(EU\) 2025/40 \(PPWR\) — EUR-Lex](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202500040) (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AL_202500040)
Read in full, 14 August 2026. Source for Art. 3(1)(15)(c)–(d) on the distance-selling producer, Art. 44(2) and 44(4) on registration, **Art. 45(3)** on the representative — several circulated profiles cite "Article 46" for this and are wrong — and Art. 12(1) on the 2028 harmonised label

- 6** [European Commission — PPWR Frequently Asked Questions, 2nd edition](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/faq-packaging-and-packaging-waste-regulation-ppwr_en) (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/faq-packaging-and-packaging-waste-regulation-ppwr_en)
DG ENV Unit B01, August 2026 (KH-01-26-068-EN-N). Read in full



An association in formation, Vienna. Everything here is shared experience with a date attached — not legal advice.