

# EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

## WHAT IS EPR?

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy principle that extends producers' responsibility for their products and packaging across the entire life cycle of their product, with a particular focus on the end-of-life stage.

EPR plays a critical role in minimising waste, ensuring sustainable waste management and supporting South Africa's transition to a circular economy.



## WHAT ARE "PRODUCERS"?

Producers are defined as stakeholders who hold responsibility over the design and production of packaging products (i.e. the packaging manufacturer), and who place those products on the market (i.e. brand owners), as well as importers and retailers of the products.



Producers are also referred to as "obliged companies".

## WHAT IS A "PRO"?

**Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs)** are collective organisations that bear responsibility for the implementation and management of EPR responsibilities.

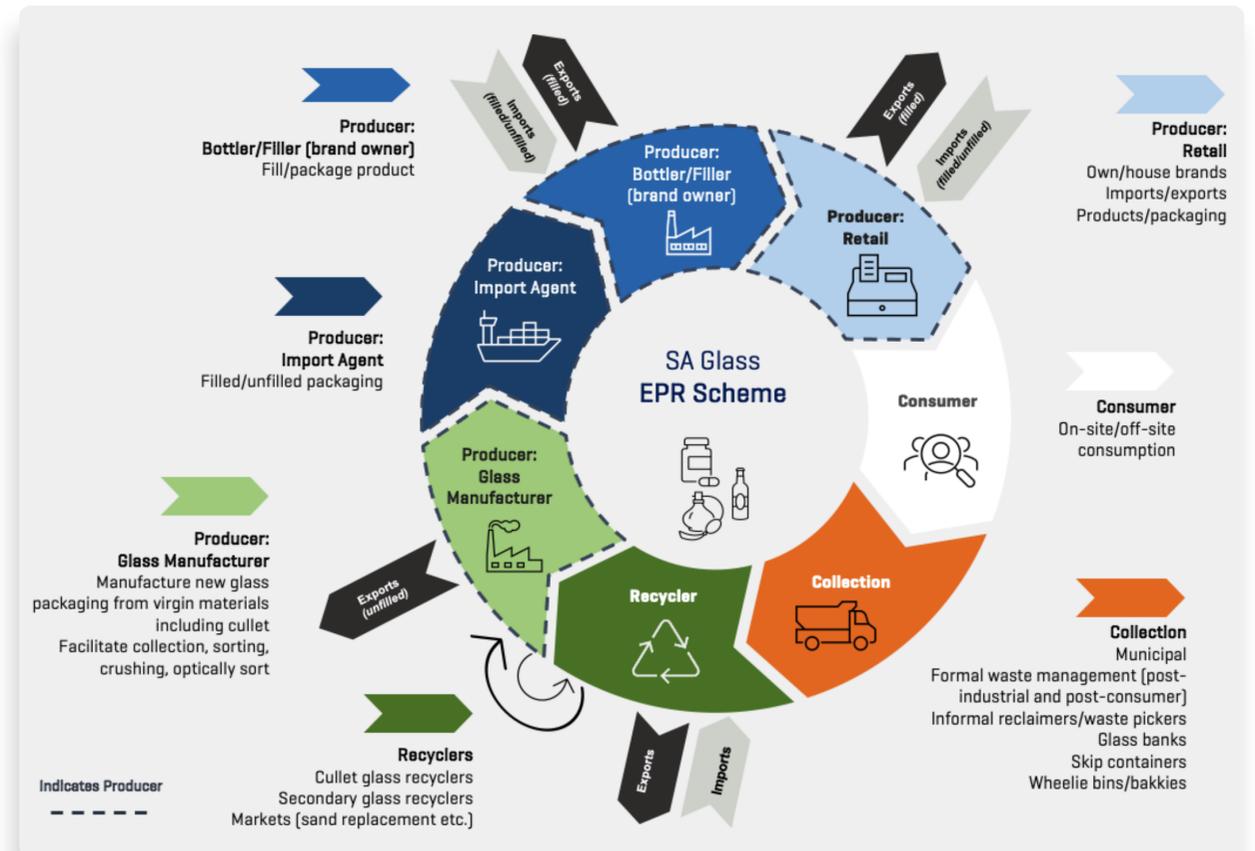
All producers will need to either join a PRO or set up their own PRO, which will require DFFE accreditation. Initially there will be a separate PRO for each of the material streams (glass, plastic, cardboard, etc.) in South Africa.

## WHAT IS REQUIRED OF PRODUCERS/PROs?

Among other things, the regulations require Producers/PROs to:



- Ensure the effective and efficient management of identified end-of-life products
- Encourage and enable the implementation of circular economy initiatives
- Set and keep track of collection and landfill-diversion targets
- Integrate informal and formal waste-value-chain activities
- Develop secondary markets for recycled content
- Support transformation objectives in the waste value chain
- Monitor and report on waste management data, financial information and material flows



## HOW IS CONSOL INVOLVED?

The Glass Recycling Company (TGRC), of which Consol is a member, is a voluntary EPR scheme for glass packaging that was established by SA glass manufacturers and brand owners in 2005.

TGRC is currently establishing itself as a PRO in line with the new regulations, which will come into effect from 5 November 2021, and Consol will continue to support circular-packaging initiatives as a member of the new organisation.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Many details of the legislation still need to be decided. For example, the preferred structure of PROs needs to be confirmed, as do stakeholder responsibilities. Consol and other industry stakeholders have submitted comments for consideration.

**Nonetheless, all producers will need to be registered with their relevant PRO by 5 November 2021.**