

NEW PACKAGING REGULATIONS

Since the 1st March 2003 the 1997 Packaging Regulations have been replaced by the **Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2003**.

Under the Packaging Directive, Ireland is required to **recycle 50% of its packaging waste by 2005**, and the new regulations were introduced to achieve this target.

Under the new Regulations, the onus is placed on ALL commercial producers of packaging waste (e.g. supermarkets, retailers, hotels, restaurants, offices, manufacturers, etc) to **segregate** packaging waste materials arising at source by type, and to have it collected by authorised recovery operators for recycling.

New requirements for Major Producers (those with annual turnovers of €1 million or more) choosing self-compliance include: increase sign sizes to enhance awareness, and provide the public with segregated take-back facilities for the acceptance, segregation and storage of packaging waste.

Businesses that were previously exempt from the Regulations (hotels, pubs, restaurants) are now included due to the fact that packaged goods **sold and consumed** on the producers premises are now accounted for.

Although packaging waste has increased almost five-fold since 1995, Ireland is moving in the right direction and the new Regulations will help Ireland to meet the challenge of achieving the 2005 targets.