



Brussels, 5 May 2015

The Technical Committee of the European PET Bottle Platform (EPBP) was requested to assess the effect of Spear RC Clear #11581 and Spear RC White 11582 low density pressure sensitive labelling systems (LD-PSL) on the quality of recycled PET. This system contains a transparent as well as an opaque label solution.

Spear RC label solutions are based on clear (Spear RC Clear #11581) and white (Spear RC White 11582) BOPP films with NaOH sensitive emulsion acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive.

Spear RC low density pressure sensitive labelling system is specifically designed to be fully removable in one piece from the hot washing solution during the PET recycling process: the adhesive is designed to be completely removed together with the label substrate, ensuring no absorption on the clean PET flakes.

This EPBP opinion is valid only where non bleeding inks are used in conjunction with Spear RC Clear #11581 and Spear RC White 11582 LD-PSL systems.

Data supplied from tests carried out according to the EPBP testing protocol demonstrated no negative impact on the colour and processing performance of the resulting rPET.

Based on the EPBP assessment's outcome and current market's knowledge in 2015, the European PET Bottle Platform (EPBP) concludes that Spear RC Clear #11581 and Spear RC White 11582 LD-PSL systems will not have a negative impact on current European PET recycling provided it is used only under the following conditions:

- (a) The density of the printed LD-pressure sensitive label with the adhesive is below 1 g/cm^3 (adhesive + label + ink), taking batch to batch tolerances into consideration;
- (b) The inks:
 - a. Are non bleeding;
 - b. Have high chemical resistance;
 - c. Have low migration
 - d. Comply with the European Legislation (e.g. Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive on the heavy metal concentration levels).
- (c) The concentration of LD-pressure sensitive labelled bottles is limited to a max to 10% of the whole EU PET bottle market. This market penetration rate takes local accumulation effects into consideration.