
**Packaging and the environment —
Processes for chemical recovery**

Emballage et environnement — Processus de valorisation chimique



Reference number
ISO/TR 16218:2013(E)



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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

In exceptional circumstances, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard ("state of the art", for example), it may decide by a simple majority vote of its participating members to publish a Technical Report. A Technical Report is entirely informative in nature and does not have to be reviewed until the data it provides are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

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ISO/TR 16218 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 122, *Packaging*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Packaging and Environment*.

Introduction

Resource use optimization, resource savings, environmental impacts' minimization are among priorities in a perspective of sustainable development. These priorities apply also to the packaging sector. Since many years, this latter has developed initiatives in these directions, working on the packaging design aspects as well as on the organization of the logistic chain, on setting up recovery and recycling schemes or on the development of used packaging recovery or recycling technologies.

For various reasons, including the diversity of national or regional contexts, some confusion arose from the fact that neither legislations nor communication messages from the concerned stakeholders could rely on clear and unanimously agreed upon definitions of the terms used and of the respective benefits of the various recovery/recycling options.

ISO/TC 122/SC 4 is developing standards on the optimization of the packaging system (ISO 18602), on reuse (ISO 18603), on material recycling (ISO 18604), on energy recovery (ISO 18605) and on organic recycling (ISO 18606). ISO 18601 will define the general requirements for the use of these ISO standards in the field of packaging and the environment.

This Technical Report is an attempt to clarify some ideas relating to the concept of "Chemical Recovery", to put it in the perspective of the other recovery options and to help local stakeholders to identify the locally most appropriate treatment option, on the basis of a common understanding of the terms and of the basic requirements specific to each recovery technology. In this Technical Report, the methodologies of chemical recovery of used packaging are described.

