Principles for Management of Plastic Packaging in a Circular Economy

The International Network of Cleaning Products Association (INCPA) recognizes that cleaning and maintenance products are essential to society. INCPA members are committed to developing, manufacturing, distributing and marketing innovative, sustainable and effective products that protect health and quality of life through cleanliness and hygiene, can be used safely when following the label instructions, and that meet or exceed regulatory safety requirements. INCPA members are promoting and contributing actively to multiregional initiatives such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the Oceans Plastics Charter, Alliance to End Plastic Waste and/or other relevant international, regional and country circular economy approaches via different voluntary industry initiatives. INCPA members are committed to the fundamental principles of a circular economy including to design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems.

INCPA supports the following principles for the management of plastic packaging:

- A thoughtful discussion on managing plastic packaging waste requires early engagement with relevant industry stakeholders across the value chain.
- Packaging is necessary to ensure product safety, integrity and to avoid waste and spoilage. Therefore, any waste management program must preserve the ability to protect the health and safety of consumers and workers to allow for the safe transport, storage and use of the products they contain.
- Any jurisdiction transiting into circular economy of plastic packaging must first consider its infrastructure conditions.
- Plastic packaging related definitions including materials and standards need to be clear and harmonized to the greatest extent possible.
- Any programs for managing plastic packaging waste, including Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, should be based on sound science and lifecycle analysis by taking into account proportionality, costs, infrastructure, existing systems, including industry voluntary initiatives.
- Cultural consumer behaviour of the respective jurisdiction should also be considered while developing and providing effective tools to cost-effectively manage plastic packaging waste programs.
- Education and communication with consumers and product users as to their valuable role is key to the success of any program for managing plastic packaging waste.
- All such programs should be developed transparently and in consultation with relevant stakeholders and be subject to their review and comment to ensure aligned, implementable processes and effective results.
- Opportunities for inter-industry and cross-sectorial dialogue and collaboration need to be developed in order to effectively facilitate and implement feasible circular solutions for plastic packaging waste.

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The International Network of Cleaning Product Associations (INCPA) is an informal coalition of trade associations located in various regions of the world that represent cleaning and maintenance product formulators. INCPA coordinates and actively engages in targeted efforts to better understand and address chemical ingredients management issues of an international or a cross-regional nature that affect the cleaning products industry.