



Q&A ENGLISH:

Q: How can you guarantee that your recycled adhesive tape actually contains 90% recycled content?

A: We are Intertek certified with the certificate number: RC-20230803-01, and our products are subjected to strict testing every year. We are happy to provide these documents on request.

Q: Your adhesive tapes have 75 linear metres per roll, but why are they narrower in diameter than other adhesive tapes with only 65 or 66 linear metres ?

A: By switching from PP (made from fossil raw materials) to PCR recycled PET and thus reducing the thickness by over 30% (from 28my to 19my) while maintaining the same product properties, we avoid a large proportion of waste during production. As a result, our RECO recycled adhesive tapes have a small diameter, despite the higher running metres.

Q: Why are your adhesive tapes not completely noiseless?

A: Our adhesive tapes are low-noise, but deliberately not noiseless, as this would require the use of chemical acrylate additives, which we deliberately avoid for the sake of the environment.

Q: Why haven't other manufacturers already come up with the idea of adhesive tapes made from recycled PET?

A: Thanks to our more than 25 years of experience in the field of packaging films and recycled films in particular, we had a head start in terms of expertise, which we wanted to utilise as a pioneer in the fight against single-use plastic. In the meantime, the 'big players' have taken the same path and we hope that they too will make their contribution to stemming the flood of plastic.

Q: Your RECO tapes are made from recycled PET, what are other packaging tapes made from?

A: The majority of available film tapes are made of OPP (oriented polypropylene, fossil raw material) - half a kilogramme of OPP requires one kilogramme of crude oil. It is currently not possible to recycle OPP on an industrial scale - OPP is usually incinerated or unfortunately ends up in the environment far too often (microplastics).

Q: Where do you source your recycled raw materials from?

A: We source the PET raw materials (bottle bales) from recycling companies worldwide. Most of the PET bottles we collect come from beaches and directly from the world's oceans. Of course, we also rely on raw material sources from PET collection systems and hope that these will become more widely available. When selecting our suppliers, certification and the Code of Conduct, which excludes elements such as child labour and guarantees the safety of people and the environment, are important to us. In addition, we regularly carry out unannounced audits on site.

Q: Your adhesive tapes are produced from PET waste - does this affect the transparency of the adhesive tape?

A: Not at all - we achieve at least the same transparency values (haze factor) as the competition and our carrier film is even suitable for direct food contact (Certificate for direct food contact).

Q: How do you produce your recycled adhesive tape and what steps are necessary?

A: In simple terms, the following production steps are necessary:

- 1: Procurement of unmixed PET waste from certified sources
- 2: Washing and chopping the PET waste into so-called small flakes
- 3: Melting the flakes into regranulate (small pellets)
- 4: Extrusion of the regranulate into PCR recycling film
- 5: Coating the PCR film with the adhesive medium (hot melt adhesive)
- 6: Cutting the mother rolls to the desired tape lengths and widths In total, 4 stages of the value chain with an accumulated plant value of over USD 250 million are necessary to produce our RECO Recycling Tape in the usual quality.

Q: Why do you use recycled PET and not recycled OPP?

A: We use r-PET because we can source PET waste by type (usually in the form of used PET bottles). This is not possible with OPP, as OPP films are mainly used for food packaging and are firmly bonded with other materials such as CPP, aluminium, PE, PET and others. Separating these composite films into individual components in order to retain only the OPP content is not technically possible on an industrial scale, at least not today.

Q: But why are there manufacturers who advertise adhesive tapes made from recycled OPP (PIR)?

A: It is important to know the difference between PCR (post consumer recycling) and PIR (post industrial recycling). With PCR, the packaging used by the consumer is actually recycled, whereas with PIR only the waste residues generated during film production are regranulated and reused - this has nothing to do with recycling in the true sense of the word.

Q: Aren't paper tapes also environmentally friendly?

A: Basically yes, as long as the paper is obtained from controlled cultivation - however, the possible applications for paper adhesive tapes are very limited. Paper adhesive tapes are mainly used for very light cardboard boxes and simple requirement profiles.

Q: Are your adhesive tapes printable?

A: Yes, they are even better printable than OPP due to the material PCR PET - we currently offer this service exclusively to B2B customers.

Q: Why are your tapes a little more expensive than those of the competition ?

A: RECO tape is currently the only real 90% PCR recycled tape on the adhesive tape market and the cost of producing adhesive tapes from PET waste is many times higher than simply burning fossil raw materials. Nevertheless, our RECO tapes do not cost many times more, but only slightly more than those of our competitors. In addition, with a running length of 75 metres, we offer an average of 10 metres more than conventional adhesive tapes and we also supply in the full roll width of 50 mm. Furthermore, part of the proceeds go to organisations for the protection of our oceans.

Q: Aren't PCR tapes a hindrance when recycling cardboard boxes?

A: Not at all - as part of the waste paper recycling process, the r-PET components are separated from the pulper and recycled separately.

Q: What impact do your adhesive tapes have on the CO2 footprint ?

A: A very positive one - we are happy to provide our Intertek LCA certificate and the CO2 analysis of the carrier film on request.

Q: Is your recycling solution patented ?

A: Yes, the production of PCR tapes is patented through our manufacturing partners and the trademark 'RECO' is protected as well. However, we are already actively making our

expertise available to competitors, as we can only reduce single-use plastic tape through a joint effort.

Q: In which country are your RECO tapes manufactured ?

A: All our tapes are made in Italy

Q: Would it be technically possible to achieve 100% recycled content ?

A: We see a maximum value of 90-93% for adhesive tapes - 100% is therefore not possible, as certain additives are necessary,

to ensure the desired product properties of the carrier film. However, these do not interfere with the recycling process in any way.

When we talk about 90% recycled content, we mean the complete PCR carrier film and not just the film core - this always consists of 100% PCR recycled material. Some manufacturers only state this 100% core value, but we think this is misleading.

Q: What strategy are you pursuing to avoid single-use plastic and promote recycling?

A: Our credo is that cross-market recycling efforts will only take place as soon as waste is given a monetary value. At the moment, waste is primarily seen as a problem and not as a valuable resource - we are trying to do our bit to change this as quickly as possible.