

### National Waste Management Strategy

*The Waste Act (59/2008) provides a comprehensive legislative framework for dealing with the impacts of waste. PACSA (Packaging Council of South Africa) has engaged with DEA (Department of Environmental Affairs) for the last few years to form an industry strategy.*

#### Background

In November 2009 the Director General of DEA informed PACSA that in view of the “in principle” commitment of the Packaging and Paper industry “to take on the responsibility of managing the waste from this sector”, the Department intends to invoke Section 28(1) of the National Environmental Management:Waste Act. This section specifically allows the Minister to require a person or industry that generates waste that affects more than 1 province to submit and industry waste management plan for approval. The plan will be subjected to public consultation by notice in the Government Gazette. PACSA have defined packaging and paper waste as non-hazardous solid material packaging and paper waste

#### Proposal made by PACSA in association with other industry bodies.

PACSA have presented a draft summary of the contents of their proposal to DEA. Perchard’s (a specialist government and public affairs consultancy in environmental compliance, packaging and waste management) have been engaged to assist. The Plan covers the following:

- Legal requirements
- The South African market
- Current state of recycling
- Targets
- Collection Models
- Proposed industry structure
- Inter-relationship with the three tiers of Government
- Funding
- Proposed Legislation to implement plan
- Implementation
- Other Issues, including litter and R&D support.

#### Funding

Government proposed a levy system and PACSA are not opposed as levies are used in other countries. PACSA have stressed the need for an equitable levy structure that considers the following four basic issues.

- All players in the greater packaging chain to be involved and that the levy is implemented at that point in the supply chain causing the minimum pain.
- That monies collected but not yet spent from the plastic bag levy be utilised. (Not seen as an option by DEA at present)
- Contributions already made to existing schemes be recognised and allowed to continue and grow such as the Recovery Action Group (RAG)
- There are no free riders.

At present a figure of approximately R30.00 per tonne is being discussed.

All players in the packaging and paper chain must be made aware of this impending levy and the need for the printing industry to co-operate and assist PACSA where necessary.