

EN

E-000040/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.3.2026)

From 21 May 2026 onwards, the description of entry EU3011 as established in Annex III to the Waste Shipment Regulation¹ will clarify, in a legally binding manner which plastic waste shipped within the Union can be classified under that entry. Footnote 3 accompanying the entry provides a clarification for the qualifiers in the description.

For the purpose of this Regulation, the terms ‘almost free from contamination and other types of waste’ and where relevant ‘almost exclusively consisting of’ shall be understood to mean that in a consignment of plastic waste or mixtures of plastic waste, classified under entry EU3011, the content of contamination, other types of wastes or non-halogenated polymers, cured resins or condensation products, or fluorinated polymers, other than the one non-halogenated polymer, cured resin or condensation product, or fluorinated polymer that makes up the bulk of the plastic waste shall not exceed a total maximum of 6 % of the weight of the consignment.

This clarification builds on the wording in the Correspondents’ Guidelines No 12², mentioned in the question, which were developed prior to the adoption of the Regulation. The above-mentioned provisions in Annex III to the Regulation lay down the classification, including the levels of contamination that is allowed in legal terms. A Regulation in EU law is directly applicable, meaning it becomes a binding legal rule across all Member States upon publication, without requiring national implementing legislation.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on shipments of waste, amending Regulations (EU) No 1257/2013 and (EU) 2020/1056 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006, OJ L, 2024/1157, 30.4.2024.

² <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/636f928d-2669-41d3-83db-093e90ca93a2/library/6e87092c-1c7d-4704-9e55-34650fb5cf88/details>.