

# Chapter 1 General information

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## Section 1.1 Preface

### Notes to on-line version

The handbook for packaging is no longer as a printed book published. It stands excluding as an on-line version on the homepage of the VCI and is accessible for everyone. The date of the different chapters shows, when changes were made.

### Remark to the first supplement

This handbook was first published in October 1996 and has been submitted with changes for an updated Edition. Following great interest from VCI members and their partners in Europe, the VCI has decided to have the handbook printed in English also. The rules appertaining to dangerous goods packaging in Chapter 1 will however remain in German as the rules in English are already available, as will Chapter 10 which relates to the Return-systems. These systems are a part of the German Packaging Ordinance which fulfils the requirements of the EU-packaging Directive.

### Preface

The chemical industry has set itself objectives to develop a packaging cycle which is based on the principle of avoidance, reduction and utilisation. Through this principle it is possible to conform to the packaging directive and the objectives for prevention.

However, to meet these targets, not only the packaging industry and customers are expected to make a contribution, but the whole chemical industry also.

The loop of producers → distributor → customer → reconditioner → waste disposer → producer → distributor → etc. has already been closed through close cooperation of the chemical industry and utilisation companies.

An important requirement for success is the standardisation of packaging and checking the variety of different types.

The results from the different teams working in this sector have been most encouraging which at the same time motivation for further work is.

This reference book should be a permanent source of information for the packaging industry / users, waste management, chemical industry, authorities and associations in order to support the necessity of standardisation. Already existing specifications are taken into consideration. In principle the aim of this book is to bring the recommendations contained herein to the notice of the DIN/CEN decision committee.

With the publication of this book, recommended standards of the chemical industry for respective packaging are published. Furthermore, this book is a “living work” and should be adjusted to accept new knowledge and facts, like the European market.

The recommendations, published by the VCI in this reference book, are for the information of members of VCI, the packaging industry and other interested circles. Complete or partial application is free.

Association of the Chemical Industry