



# Reform of the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law in Japan

April, 2006  
Rengo Co., Ltd

# I. Overview of Containers & Packaging Recycling Law

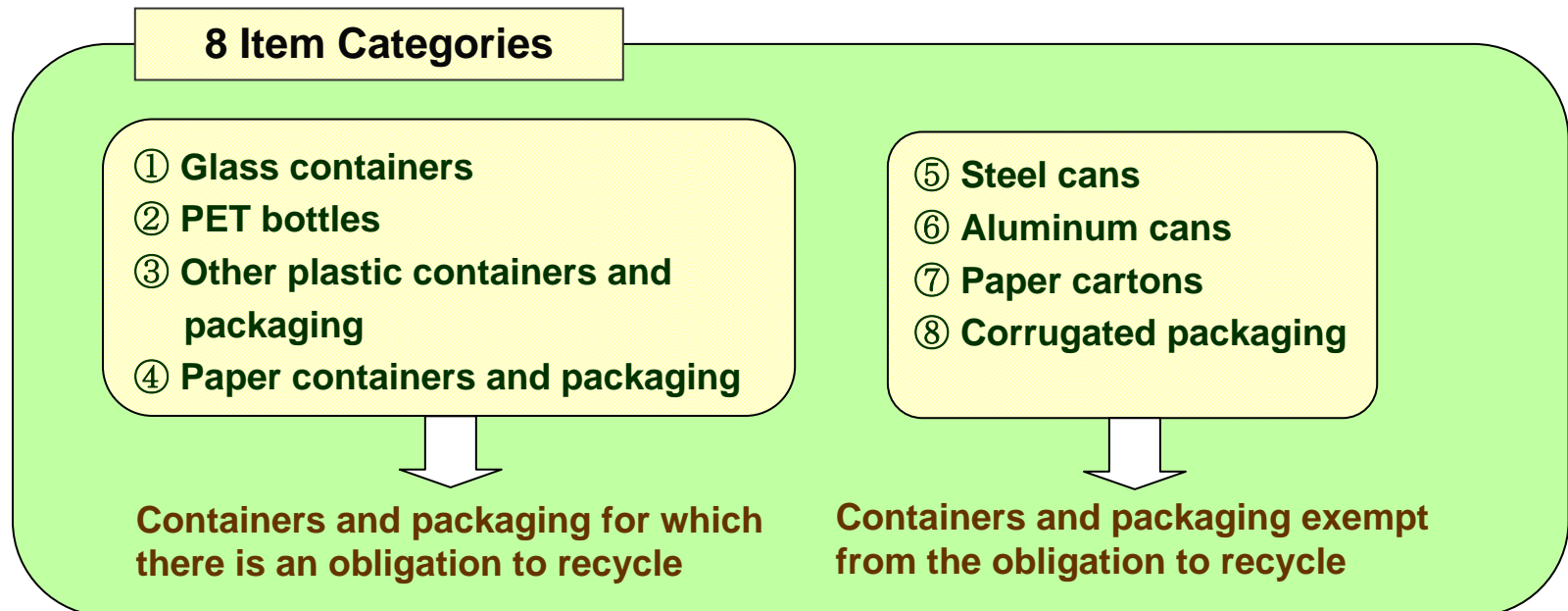
## (1) OBJECTIVE

An increase in household waste is putting pressure on final disposal sites for general waste. The aim is to achieve effective utilization of containers and packaging waste as resources by promoting the recycling of those items, which account for about 60% of the quantity of household waste.

→ The 3Rs (**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**)

*Law established June 1995; implemented April 1997*

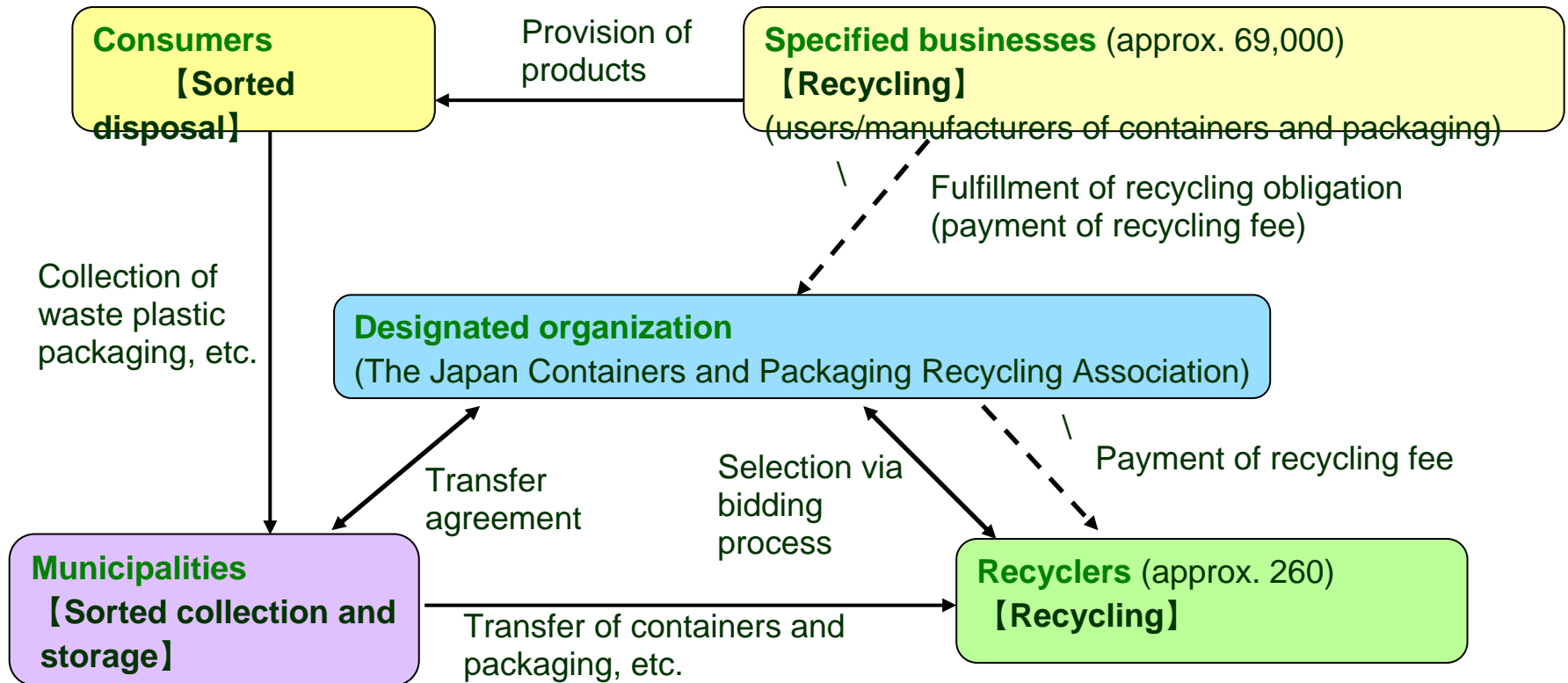
## (2) SCOPE (containers and packaging designated for sorted collection)



## I. Overview Containers & Packaging Recycling Law

### (3) DIVISION OF ROLES

- ① Sorted disposal by consumers
- ② Sorted collection and storage by municipalities
- ③ Recycling by businesses



## II. The Containers & Packaging Recycling Law and Corrugated Board -- Status of Corrugated Packaging

- ◆ Corrugated packaging is one of the 8 items designated for sorted collection under the Containers and Packaging Recycling Law. However, corrugated packaging is exempt from the recycling obligation as there are clear routes in place for free or compensated transfer.
- ◆ **Corrugated Packaging Recycling Council\*** was formed (in March 2000) after a 1998 request from the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the establishment of an independent organization to follow up on matters resulting from the exemption of corrugated packaging from the recycling obligation. It was to act as a safety net in case of hindrances to the recycling of used corrugated packaging.

\* (Full members)

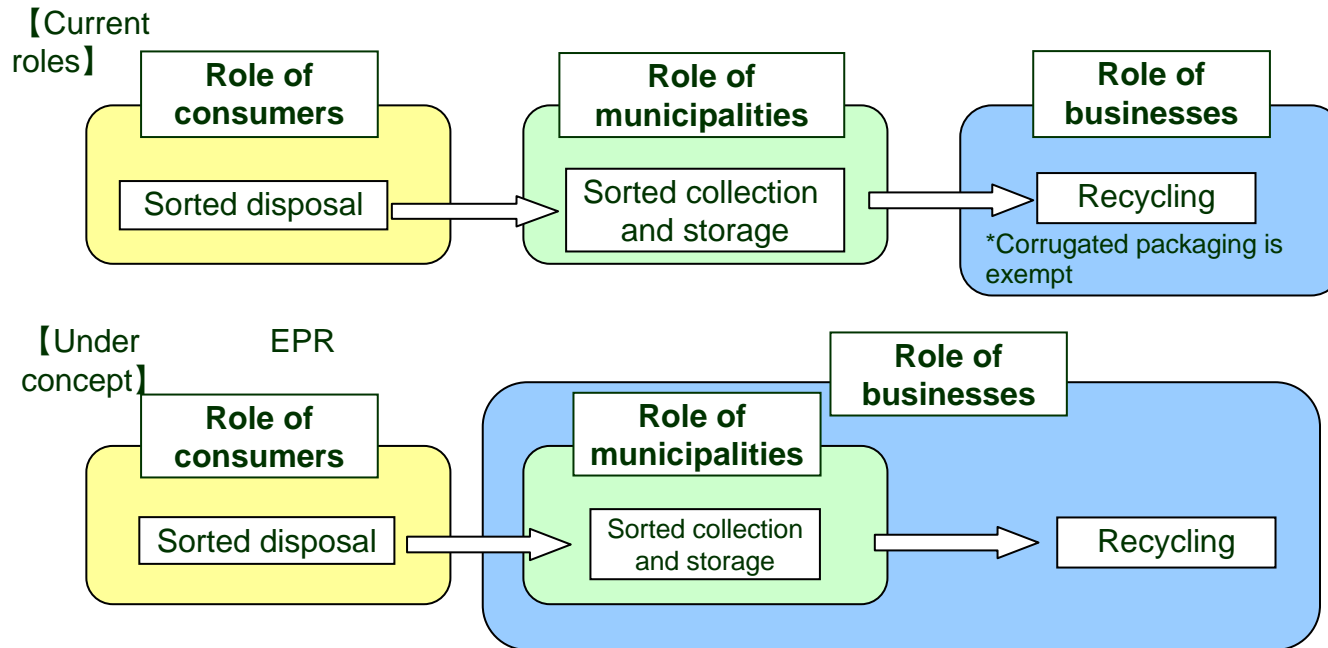
Japan Corrugated Case Association (JCCA),  
Japan Paper-box & Corrugated-box Industry Association,  
Association for Electric Home Appliances, Japan Soft Drinks Association,  
Network of Paper Containers and Packaging for Alcoholic Beverages  
Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union

(Associate members)

Japan Recovered Paper Association, Japan Recycle Co-op., Japan Paper Association

### III. The Containers & Packaging Recycling Law and Corrugated Packaging -- Relation to the Reform Debate

#### (1) Debate over EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility)



【Reference】  
 Volume of containers and packaging waste collected by municipalities in fiscal 2004:

- ◆ Total for 8 items: 2,658,000 tons
- ◆ Corrugated board: 547,000 tons ← 21% of total

### III. The Containers & Packaging Recycling Law and Corrugated Packaging -- Relation to the Reform Debate

#### (2) Cooperation between the 8 Container & Packaging Recycling Organizations

Nippon Keidanren  
(Japan Business Federation)



Voluntary Action Plan

**Glass Bottle Recycling Promotion Association**  
**The Council for PET Bottle Recycling**  
**Paper Packaging Recycling Council**  
**Plastic Packaging Recycling Council**  
**Japan Steel Can Recycling Association**  
**Aluminum Can Recycling Association**  
**Japan Recycling Council for Beverage Cartons**  
**Corrugated Packaging Recycling Council**



The 8 organizations work together to promote the Voluntary Action Plan  
“Committee of Organizations for 3R Promotion”

## IV. Voluntary Action Plan on Corrugated Packaging

### -- Corrugated Packaging Recycling Council – Towards 2010

#### 【REDUCE】

- ◆ Although designed according to distribution requirements for individual products, the aim is to reduce the weight by 1% per m<sup>2</sup> compared to 2004 figures through the joint efforts of manufacturers and users.

(Ref.) 1990: 664.1g/m<sup>2</sup> → 2004: 640.9g/m<sup>2</sup> (approx. 3.5% reduction)

#### 【RECYCLE】

- ◆ Make use of existing recycling programs to maintain recovery rate above 90%.

\* Recovery rate = (OCC mill receipts + exports – imports)

÷ (Containerboard consumption + import-related corrugated box/board  
– export-related corrugated box/board)

(Ref.) 2004: 93.6%

- ◆ Work to develop and spread easy-to-crush, easy-to-fold corrugated packaging.

#### 【OTHERS – Identification】

- ◆ Aim to spread the use of identification: 90% by fiscal 2010.

- Domestically-produced corrugated packaging :

Educate businesses through the website and advertising activities.

- Corrugated boxes used as packaging to import products:

Educate small importers and seek cooperation from overseas corrugated industries.



ダンボール