



VINYL INSTITUTE OF CANADA

Submission to the Second Informal In-Person Meeting of Heads of Delegation to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

Bangkok, Thailand | 27–30 September 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vinyl Institute of Canada (VIC), an accredited non-governmental organization participating in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process, welcomes the opportunity to provide perspectives in response to the Chair's Guiding Questions for the second informal in-person meeting of Heads of Delegation.

VIC supports the development of an effective, implementable global instrument that prevents plastic pollution and advances the environmentally responsible manufacture, use, recovery and management of plastic materials and products.

As Members seek areas of convergence and potential bridging solutions, VIC encourages an approach that combines environmental ambition with science-based, practical, and proportionate implementation.

A central consideration should be recognition of the significant differences among plastic products and applications.

This is particularly important for vinyl/PVC. The predominant uses of vinyl are durable applications, including pipe and water infrastructure, windows and doors, siding, flooring, roofing, electrical applications, medical products, and other long-life products. Packaging represents a comparatively small proportion of overall global vinyl applications.

A product designed to remain safely and productively in service for decades presents fundamentally different lifecycle considerations from a short-lived product with a high probability of becoming litter or entering the environment.

VIC therefore encourages a **science-, risk-, application- and lifecycle-based approach** to the future instrument.



Six Priorities

As potential areas for convergence, VIC encourages Members to consider six principles:

1. Distinguish durable products from short-lived and high-leakage applications.

Measures should reflect differences in product lifespan, application, environmental exposure and demonstrated potential to become pollution.

2. Apply science-based, lifecycle and risk-based criteria to global product measures.

Measures should address demonstrated environmental risks and consider the complete lifecycle and function of products.

3. Avoid regrettable substitution.

Measures should consider the lifecycle environmental, technical, economic and performance implications of alternatives so that substitution does not result in greater overall environmental impacts or reduced product performance.

4. Recognize durability, resource efficiency, recovery, and recycling as important components of circularity.

Keeping products and materials in productive use for longer periods can conserve resources, reduce waste generation, and preserve material value.

5. Ensure reporting, implementation and compliance requirements are proportionate.

Requirements should generate information necessary to assess progress without creating unnecessary duplication or administrative burdens.

6. Recognize industry as an implementation partner.

Government-industry-research partnerships can accelerate innovation, recycling, investment, technology development, and measurable environmental improvement.

These principles can support an ambitious agreement while providing the predictability necessary for governments and businesses to invest in effective circular-economy solutions.



CLUSTER A

National Plans, Reporting, Implementation and Compliance, Information Exchange, and Effectiveness Evaluation

National Plans

National Plans should provide a practical mechanism for translating the objectives of the instrument into national action while recognizing differing national circumstances, regulatory systems, infrastructure, and waste-management capabilities.

Plans should establish measurable objectives while enabling Parties to prioritize interventions according to demonstrated environmental impacts.

Importantly, National Plans should allow Parties to differentiate among product categories and applications. Measures appropriate for short-lived products presenting significant leakage or litter risks may not be appropriate for durable products designed to remain in productive use for decades.

National Plans should also facilitate collaboration among governments, industry, municipalities, recyclers, researchers, and other stakeholders.

Internationally Accepted Sustainability Standards

VIC encourages Parties to make appropriate use of internationally accepted product, environmental, safety, testing and conformity-assessment standards developed by recognized standards bodies, including ISO, ASTM International, CSA Group and UL Standards & Engagement. Parties may also consider applicable regional requirements, including relevant European CE marking requirements, where these provide a useful basis for implementation.

Recognized standards can support consistent, transparent, measurable and science-based approaches while respecting differences in national circumstances and regulatory systems. Where appropriate, National Plans could reference standards for product design, material performance, durability, recyclability, collection, recycling, environmental performance, lifecycle assessment, testing and conformity assessment.

Such standards can provide a common technical basis for setting measurable objectives and evaluating progress. Parties should be able to rely on effective national or regional standards and regulatory systems where these already serve the instrument's objectives, avoiding unnecessary duplication.



Internationally recognized standards and methodologies can also strengthen reporting, implementation, compliance, information exchange and effectiveness evaluation. Sharing applicable testing methods, certification approaches and sector-specific practices would improve comparability, transparency and capacity building.

Where suitable standards do not yet exist, or do not adequately address a particular product, material or application, Parties should encourage their development and periodic review through recognized standards-development processes.

The use of standards should remain proportionate and risk based. Their application should take account of product category and intended use, durability, environmental impacts, leakage and litter risks, existing waste-management systems and national circumstances. This would help ensure that sustainability measures are technically sound and practical across jurisdictions.

Reporting, Implementation and Compliance

VIC supports transparency and accountability. Reporting requirements should, however, be clear, proportionate, and focused on information that contributes meaningfully to implementation and effectiveness evaluation.

Where effective national systems already exist, the instrument should seek to utilize or complement those systems rather than create unnecessary duplication.

Reporting, implementation, compliance, and effectiveness evaluation should operate as an integrated framework. Reporting should help identify progress and implementation challenges; evaluation should inform future action; and compliance mechanisms should facilitate implementation, capacity building, and continuous improvement.

Information Exchange

Information exchange can significantly strengthen implementation.

The instrument should facilitate sharing of information and best practices concerning product design, collection, recycling technologies, waste-management systems, environmental performance, lifecycle assessment, research, and successful public-private partnerships.

Successful sector-specific initiatives should be capable of being shared and, where appropriate, adapted to different national circumstances.

CLUSTER B

Releases and Leakages, Existing and Legacy Plastic Pollution, Waste Management, Product Design and Plastic Products

Determining Products Requiring Global Measures

VIC considers the criteria used to determine products potentially subject to global measures to be particularly important.

Decisions should be based on transparent, objective and science-based criteria rather than polymer identity alone.

Relevant considerations should include:

- demonstrated environmental leakage and litter prevalence;
- likelihood and pathways of environmental exposure;
- product lifespan and durability;
- recyclability and existing recovery systems;
- essential or important societal functions;
- technical and performance requirements;
- availability and lifecycle performance of alternatives;
- economic and socioeconomic impacts;
- implications for infrastructure, housing, and healthcare; and
- potential unintended consequences of material substitution.

For example, vinyl pipe used in drinking-water or wastewater infrastructure and designed to perform for decades presents fundamentally different lifecycle considerations from a short-lived product frequently found in the environment.

The future instrument should be sufficiently nuanced to recognize these differences.

Global measures should therefore focus on demonstrated pollution risks and environmental outcomes, rather than imposing undifferentiated restrictions on materials irrespective of their application, lifespan, or exposure profile.

Existing and Legacy Plastic Pollution

Waste Management, Product Design and Circularity

Effective collection and waste-management systems are fundamental to preventing plastic pollution.

The instrument should encourage investment in collection, sorting, recycling, and recovery infrastructure while recognizing substantial differences in national circumstances and capabilities.

For durable vinyl products, collection, and recycling at the end of their long service lives represent important opportunities for increased circularity.

The Canadian vinyl industry is actively pursuing this approach.

PVC 123, VIC's medical PVC recycling initiative, demonstrates the potential to collect selected post-use medical vinyl products and divert these materials from disposal.

Project Win-Finity, stewarded by the Vinyl Institute of Canada **in partnership with the National Research Council of Canada (NRC)** and industry partners, is working to develop and evaluate a Canadian circular recycling model for post-consumer vinyl windows. The initiative is examining opportunities to recover materials from end-of-life windows and return those resources to productive use.

Such initiatives demonstrate how government research expertise, industry knowledge and recycling capabilities can be combined to develop practical circular-economy solutions.

Product design provisions should similarly recognize durability, resource efficiency, performance, and recyclability. Policy should avoid creating incentives for the premature replacement of long-life products where continued safe use provides environmental, societal, and economic value.





CLUSTER C

Capacity Building, Technical Assistance, Technology Transfer and Financial Resources

Mobilizing Financial Resources

Implementation of the future instrument will require substantial investment, particularly where adequate collection, waste management and recycling infrastructure does not currently exist.

Public finance has an important role, particularly in enabling infrastructure and capacity building. It can also help catalyze additional investment and create conditions that encourage sustainable private-sector participation.

Financial mechanisms should focus on measurable environmental outcomes and support the development of economically sustainable collection, recycling, and circular-economy systems.

Role of the Private Sector

The private sector should be recognized as an important implementation partner.

Industry possesses expertise in manufacturing, product design, material science, logistics, recycling technologies, and market development. It also has an important role in mobilizing investment and commercializing new technologies.

Public-private partnerships can help develop recycling infrastructure, strengthen markets for recovered materials, and accelerate innovation.

Canada provides practical examples of this model.

The Vinyl Institute of Canada has a longstanding relationship with Environment and Climate Change Canada through Environmental Performance Agreements concerning the responsible management of tin stabilizers used in vinyl manufacturing.

The current **2025–2030 Environmental Performance Agreement Respecting the Use of Tin Stabilizers in the Vinyl Industry**, between Environment and Climate Change Canada, VIC and participating companies, establishes defined environmental objectives, reporting requirements and verification processes intended to prevent releases of tin stabilizers into the environment.



Similarly, VIC's partnership with the **National Research Council of Canada on Project Win-Finity** demonstrates how government research capacity and industry expertise can be combined to investigate practical circular-economy solutions for durable products.

These experiences demonstrate the potential value of clearly defined environmental objectives coupled with industry participation, accountability, technical innovation, and measurable implementation.

Technology Transfer and International Cooperation

Technology transfer should build lasting domestic capacity and support international cooperation.

Cooperation could facilitate access to technologies and expertise concerning collection, sorting, recycling, pollution prevention, environmental monitoring, and product design.

Technology transfer should occur on mutually agreed terms and appropriately recognize intellectual property rights and the importance of maintaining incentives for continued innovation.

Capacity building should extend beyond equipment and technology to include technical training, institutional capacity, knowledge exchange, and development of viable markets for recovered materials.

CLUSTER D

Preamble, Objective, Principles and Approaches, Definitions, Just Transition, Public Information, Research, Secretariat and Final Provisions

Principles and Approaches

VIC encourages Members to consider principles and approaches that support ambitious environmental outcomes while facilitating effective implementation.

These include:

Science- and evidence-based decision-making. Measures should be based on credible evidence and capable of review as scientific knowledge and technologies develop.

Lifecycle thinking. Environmental impacts should be considered throughout the lifecycle of products rather than at one stage in isolation.

Circular economy. Products and materials should remain in productive use for as long as reasonably possible through durability, reuse, repair, recovery, and recycling.

Risk-based and proportionate action. Measures should correspond to demonstrated environmental risks and recognize product characteristics, applications, and exposure pathways.

Technology and material neutrality. Wherever practicable, policy should establish environmental outcomes rather than prescribe particular technologies or replacement materials without evidence of overall lifecycle benefits.

Recognition of national circumstances. Parties should retain appropriate flexibility to implement obligations in accordance with national regulatory systems, infrastructure, economic conditions, and capabilities.

Pollution prevention. Preventing releases and leakage into the environment should remain central to implementation.

Public Information, Education and Research

Effective public information and education can contribute significantly to implementation.

Consumers, businesses, and institutions require clear information concerning responsible use, reuse, collection, recycling, and disposal.

Communications should be evidence-based and recognize that plastic products and applications have differing lifespans, functions, and environmental exposure profiles.

Research priorities should include improved recycling technologies, collection systems, lifecycle assessment, environmental fate, product durability, material recovery, product design, and development of markets for recovered materials.

Government-industry-research partnerships should be encouraged as part of this effort.

Definitions and Institutional Arrangements

Definitions should provide sufficient legal clarity and consistency to support effective implementation without creating unnecessary complexity.

Particular attention should be given to definitions that determine the application of substantive obligations, including terms such as “plastic pollution,” “plastic waste,” “recycling,” “reuse,” “release,” “leakage” and “plastic product.”

Importantly, the instrument should maintain a clear distinction between **plastic products performing their intended function within the economy and plastic pollution present in the environment.**

This distinction is particularly relevant for durable products that may remain safely in service for decades.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL CONSIDERATIONS

The transition toward greater plastics circularity should be both environmentally effective and economically sustainable.

Canada’s vinyl value chain supports manufacturing and related employment and provides products used throughout construction, municipal infrastructure, healthcare, and other sectors of the Canadian economy.

Many vinyl applications form part of long-lived capital assets. Pipe, windows, siding, flooring, roofing, and other building products can remain in service for decades.

Measures affecting these applications can therefore have consequences extending beyond the plastics industry, including implications for housing and construction costs, drinking-water and wastewater infrastructure, healthcare procurement, manufacturing competitiveness, investment, and employment.

Economic and socioeconomic impacts should therefore form part of the assessment of potential global measures.

Consideration of these impacts should complement, not replace, environmental objectives. Well-designed policy can deliver measurable environmental outcomes while minimizing unintended consequences and creating incentives for investment in circularity and improved environmental performance.

A lifecycle approach is particularly important when considering substitution. Replacing one material with another does not necessarily produce an environmental benefit. Decisions should consider performance requirements, expected service life, resource and energy use, recoverability, and other relevant lifecycle impacts.

ALIGNMENT WITH CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

VIC supports Canada's objective of preventing plastic pollution and shares important areas of common ground with Canada's emphasis on evidence-based decision-making, lifecycle management, innovation, and a circular economy.

Canada's domestic approach seeks to keep plastics in productive use and out of the environment while improving how plastics are designed, used, and managed throughout their lifecycle.

VIC believes the future international instrument can reinforce these objectives by:

- prioritizing demonstrated sources and risks of plastic pollution;
- appropriately distinguishing durable and long-life applications from short-lived, high-leakage products;
- applying science- and lifecycle-based decision-making;
- encouraging durability, collection, recovery, and recycling;
- evaluating alternatives to prevent regrettable substitution;
- supporting innovation and investment; and
- encouraging cooperation among governments, industry, researchers, and civil society.

Canada's experience also illustrates the potential contribution of collaborative environmental stewardship.

The **2025–2030 Environmental Performance Agreement Respecting the Use of Tin Stabilizers in the Vinyl Industry** is the fourth agreement of its kind between the Government of Canada and the Canadian vinyl industry since 2008. It demonstrates that government and industry can establish clear environmental objectives, reporting and verification mechanisms and work collaboratively toward measurable outcomes.



This type of cooperative implementation model can complement appropriate regulatory measures and provides a useful example for consideration as Parties explore practical mechanisms for implementing the future instrument.

CONCLUSION

The Vinyl Institute of Canada supports an effective, implementable, and durable global agreement capable of delivering measurable progress toward preventing plastic pollution.

As Members work to identify potential landing zones, VIC encourages an instrument that combines environmental ambition with **science, lifecycle thinking, proportionality, circularity, innovation, and cooperation.**

The diversity of plastic products and applications must be recognized. For vinyl, this means acknowledging the predominantly durable nature of its applications and their important roles in infrastructure, housing, healthcare, and other areas of society, while continuing to advance responsible manufacturing, recovery, recycling, and environmental stewardship.

The objective should be to **prevent plastic materials and products from becoming pollution while enabling materials that continue to provide societal value to remain responsibly in productive use.**

VIC believes that durable products, effective waste management, improved recycling, responsible product stewardship, innovation, and strong government-industry partnerships can all contribute to this objective.

The Vinyl Institute of Canada stands ready to continue working constructively with the Government of Canada, other Parties, industry, civil society, research organizations, and international partners to advance practical solutions that protect the environment, strengthen circularity and support sustainable economic prosperity.

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Web: www.vinylinstituteofcanada.com

Recycling: [PVC 123](#)

Industry: [Innovations in Vinyl](#)