

Law for the Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging (Container and Packaging Recycling Law)

The volume of municipal solid waste discharged has increased along with the diversification of our lifestyle and the change in consumer's awareness. And accordingly, the remaining capacity of the final disposal sites are being threatened to be full soon. While the volume of containers and packages has become approximately 60 percent of the total municipal solid waste, the Container and Packaging Recycling Law was enacted in 1997 in order to promote efficient use of recycled containers and packages generated and reduction of wastes by shifting those wastes into recyclable resources. (Fig. 1) Unlike the situation when the municipal governments were solely responsible for the treatment of waste containers and packages before the enactment of the law, it stipulates responsibilities of consumers, administration and businesses in management of waste containers and packages.

This Law was enforced in April 1997 to reduce the waste of glass containers, PET bottles containing drink or soy source and paper cartons (except for those cartons applying aluminum foil inside. Since April 2000, plastic containers and packages other than PET bottles and paper containers and packages other than paper cartons for drinks have included in the target items of recycling, as well as the scope of specific business entities has been expanded under this Law. (Fig. 2)

General practice of recycling is conducted through consignment to a designated corporation (the Japan Container and Package Recycling Association).

Designated corporation selects a recycling business entity among pre-registered recycling business entities by public bidding in each designated storage site in local municipalities by utilizing commission paid by specified business entities, i.e. manufactures of and business entities using containers and packages. Consigned recycling business entity transports the waste to recycling facilities from storage sites in local municipalities and delivers the recycled product for profit to the user after the process of recycling is finished. Payment by designated corporation to the recycling business entities is done after they check a receipt or a delivery report issued by the user of recycled products that the recycled waste was delivered to the user for sure. This system prevents waste being disposed of without being recycled. (Fig. 3)

Fig.1

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Roles played by those concerned and recycling flow

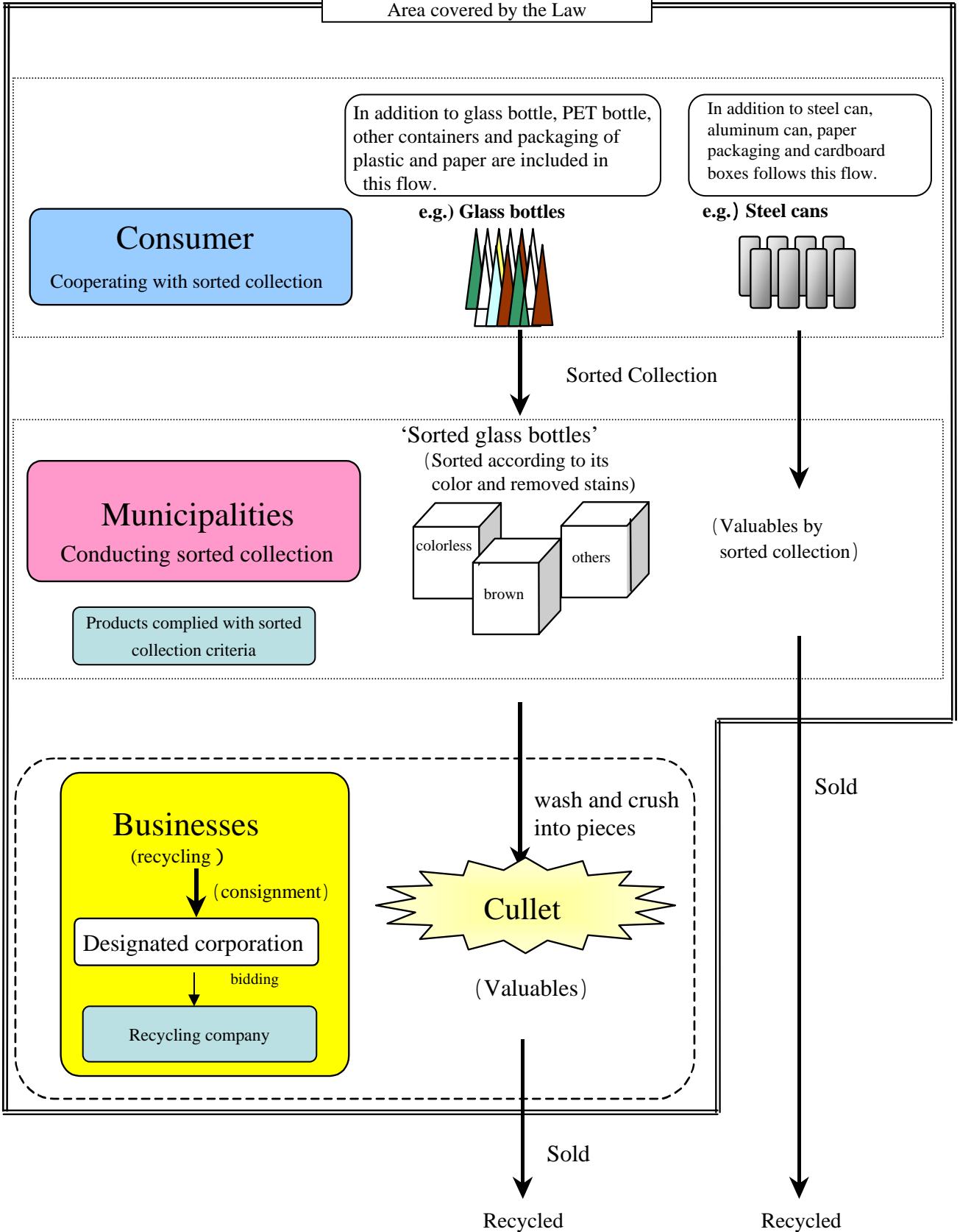


Fig.2

Increase in Items of Sorted Collection and Recycling

April 1997 ~

Glass bottles

PET bottles

Steel cans

Aluminum cans

Paper cartons

April 2000 ~

Glass bottles

PET bottles

Plastic containers
and packages

Paper containers
and packages

Steel cans

Aluminum cans

Paper cartons

Cardboard box

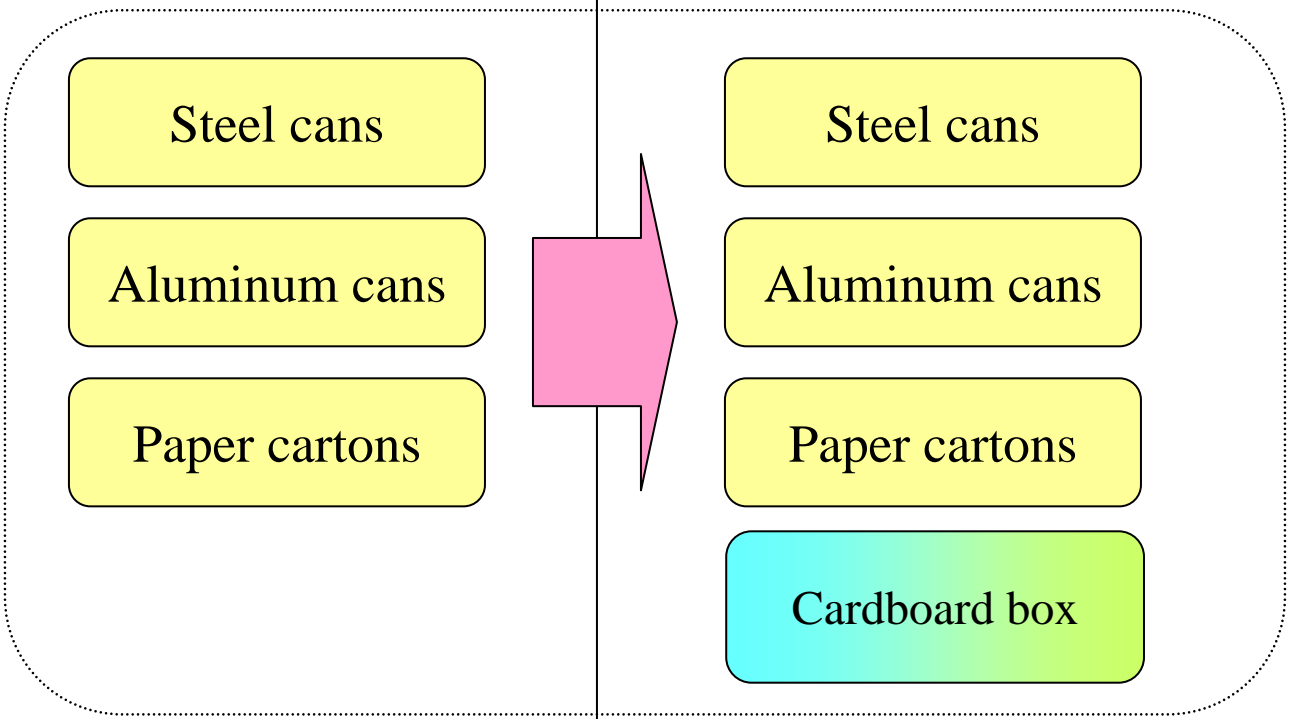


Fig.3

Scheme of the Law for the Promotion of Sorted Collection and Recycling of Containers and Packaging

