



CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT PAPER THEFT



Background (REF:1, 2)



Figure-1. Picture of typical theft of paper and board for recycling in Madrid (Spain)

Theft of paper and board for recycling (PfR) is a common problem in several European countries. This fact can create a disadvantage for some companies operating in Europe. The payment of PfR in cash by collection shops can boost paper theft by the informal sector. These payments can lead to a fiscal advantage for non-legal companies, reducing the competitiveness of traditional paper firms as well as legal employment would be destroyed

and transformed into illegal employment and the social problems that it involves that makes even more difficult to include them in official system.

Such payments remain a common practice in other countries, which show high rates of theft (eastern Europe mainly). This fact means economic losses which are needed to cover the cost of collection for recycling. Additionally, statistics about municipal collection wouldn't reflect the real collection rate of paper and board.

ACTION

Control and enforcement of measures to avoid paper theft for recycling. Measures established could be based on container design or surveillance units

Examples of good practice implemented

ANTI-THEFT CONTAINERS in Madrid (SPAIN) (REF:2)



Figure-2. Anti-theft container designed in Madrid (Spain). Source: ECOEMBES

ECOEMBES and RECIPAP in collaboration with the Municipality of Madrid (Spain) have installed 66 anti-theft containers in several neighbourhoods in order to avoid theft of paper for recycling.

This new anti-theft design is based on a long and narrow opening to avoid the entrance of arms and also the extraction of material.

The requirements for the anti-theft container are: universal, i.e. applicable to all paper and board containers, robust design since it doesn't suppose any danger to the people and no interfere in the opening and closing of the own container.

In addition to anti-theft containers, the municipal police have organized control units in those entities which, presumably, receive paper and board collected in an illegal way. Further, the municipal police carries out actions to intercept illegal collectors and applies the corresponding inspection record.



Figure-3. Anti-theft container implemented in Zagreb (Croatia). Source: partner of the IMPACTPapeRec project

ANTI-THEFT CONTAINERS in Zagreb (Croatia)

A new pilot case of anti-theft containers is carrying out in Zagreb with the design of containers showed in Figure 3.

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Keep in mind that...

- ⚠ Measures have to be implemented in a coordinated way by the municipality and the company responsible of the design of the container. The municipality works in collaboration providing data and designing the container allocation plan.
- ⚠ Collection points receiving PfR against cash should be closely monitored.

How to start?

- Evaluate whether paper theft is posing significant problems for quantity and quality in your municipality.
- Establish of procedures to detect infractions and to sanction them to ensure consistency.
- Perform technical and economic evaluation to identify the best anti-theft measures for the territory (e.g. key card, design containers, video surveillance, communal police groups etc.)
- Investment cost depends on the technical level of implementation: more technical level, more cost.



Potential benefits (REF:2)

Increase quantities of PfR which means an increase of income to municipalities	●	●	●
Stronger motivation of citizens to participate in a scheme that works			●
Cleaner areas around containers	●		●
Ensure that PfR stays in hands of the stakeholder responsible of the collection	●		●
Less vandalism	●	●	●



References:

1. EUROPEAN COMMISSION (2015): The efficient functioning of waste markets in the European Union
2. ECOEMBES (2016): Press room ECOEMBES and ASPAPEL collaborate to design anti-theft paper containers in Madrid (Spain)