

Brussels, 17/12/2020

Dear Sir or Madam,
Dear Colleague,

Concerns: Launch of EPR for mattresses in Belgium

As of 1 January 2021, the extended producer responsibility (EPR) for mattresses will come into force in Belgium. This EPR means that each producer and importer of mattresses will be responsible for the waste flows arising from the sale of mattresses in Belgium. They must therefore intervene in the costs of collection and processing and, in addition, achieve the legally established collection and recycling objectives. The management body Valumat vzw, an initiative of a number of mattress manufacturers and the sector federations Fedustria (producers), Comeos (wholesale distribution) and Navem (furniture trade), was set up to help manage this system. More information can be found on the website www.valumat.be/en.

For consumers, this means that from 1 January 2021 they will have to pay an environmental contribution when purchasing a new mattress. This is intended to finance the costs of collecting, dismantling and processing the discarded mattresses and is also intended for research and development into the eco-design of new mattresses. This also means that, from then on, consumers will be able to take their old mattresses to the recycling and waste collection centres free of charge and to some final sellers when they buy a new mattress.

The environmental contribution

The environmental contribution to be paid by the consumer is determined on the basis of the type and size of the mattress (see overview below).

Environmental contribution per mattress type in 2021

Important: tariffs are subject to annual review according to needs and market conditions.

	excl. BTW	incl. BTW
Baby mattresses*	€ 3,51	€ 4,25
Matrassen en toppers** ≤120 cm	€ 7,02	€ 8,50
Matrassen en toppers** > 120 cm	€ 14,05	€ 17,00
<p>*Baby mattresses: mattresses with the following dimensions in centimetres: 60 x 120, 60 x 130, 70 x 140. Note: Crib and cot mattresses are exempted, these are mattresses with a maximum height ≤ 40 mm and the total mattress area is ≤ 80 cm².</p> <p>**Mattresses: products intended for sleeping and resting on, suitable for human use for a long period of time, consisting of a strong cover, filled with core materials, and which can be placed on an existing supporting bed structure, as well as toppers placed on a mattress. A topper (also known as a top mattress, overlay mattress or top mattress) is a thin mattress (maximum 10 centimetres thick) that is placed on top of the normal mattress.</p>		

source: Valumat vzw

Our reference: 2020-105- EPR mattresses Belgium - FDJ/IH

Fedustria non-profit organisation, Federation of the Belgian textile, woodworking and furniture industries

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How can foreign producers help their Belgian customers?

Not only Belgian producers, but also distributors, final sellers and project customers who import mattresses directly or are the first to place them on the Belgian market, are regarded as producer by the authorities. They can easily comply with the regulations by joining Valumat. Shops that have mattresses produced for placing on the Belgian market under their own name (Private Label) are also considered as producer.

If they wish, the parties mentioned above can mandate their supplier - if the latter agrees - to include the quantity of mattresses supplied by them in their annual Valumat declaration. Foreign suppliers can also take up this mandate and thus take on the administrative formalities for their Belgian customers. However, it is always the Belgian producer/importer who remains ultimately responsible. Moreover, we emphasise that this is a voluntary agreement between private label holders or importers and their suppliers.

If a foreign producer wishes to take on the mandate for his customers, he must register with Valumat. All necessary information is available via <https://valumat.be/en/i-produce-or-import-mattresses/joining-valumat>. The mandate form can also be downloaded here.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and remain at your disposal in case of additional questions.

Yours sincerely
Fedustria vzw

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ingrid Hontis".

Ingrid Hontis
Advisor Environment & Energy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Filip De Jaeger".

Filip De Jaeger
Deputy Director-General