Now law: the EU vehicle circularity regulation sets 25% recycled plastic

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Regulation (EU) 2026/1738 on circularity requirements for vehicle design and the management of end-of-life vehicles, adopted on 8 July 2026, entered into force on 13 August after publication in the Official Journal. It replaces the 2000 and 2005 directives and turns the political agreement of December 2025 into binding law.

The timeline: at least **15% recycled plastic** in every new vehicle six years after entry into force (2032) and **25% ten years after** (2036); at least one fifth of that share must come from end-of-life vehicles. Most obligations apply from September 2028, and the Commission will set equivalent targets for steel and aluminium in 2033.

For plastic-part suppliers the practical novelty is traceability: the "vehicle circularity passport" will require documenting the material flow from dismantler to compounder to moulder, and designing for dismantling, with clear instructions for removing and replacing parts.

Sources: EUR-Lex · Just Auto · European Recycling