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**Ministry of the Environment Decision
on derogations from limitation of heavy metal
concentration levels in packaging**

Issued in Helsinki, February 29, 2000

Under section 21 of the Government Decision (921/1997) of October 23, 1997 on packaging and packaging waste, the Ministry of the Environment has decided the following:

Section 1
Implementation

This decision implements the Commission of the European Communities Decision (1999/177/EC) establishing the conditions for derogation for plastic crates and plastic pallets from the heavy metal concentration levels laid down in European Parliament and Council Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission Decision'.

Section 2
*Derogation from the limits set for heavy metal
concentration levels in packaging*

The limits for heavy metal concentration levels in packaging referred to in section 15 of the Government Decision (962/1977) on packaging and packaging waste do not apply to crates, baskets or pallets made of plastic.

Section 3
National provisions

The packer is required to ensure that all new plastic crates, baskets and pallets as referred to in the Commission Decision are marked for identification, that an inventory and bookkeeping system is created and that units which are no longer reusable are processed or recycled in keeping with the Commission Decision.

A declaration of conformity drawn up by the manufacturer or his authorized representative as referred to in the Commission Decision must be submitted to the Finnish Environment Institute by November 30 each year.

Section 4

Reference provision

Apart from the Commission Decision, what is provided in the Waste Act (1072/1993) and in the Government Decision on packaging and packaging waste applies to the plastic crates, baskets and pallets referred to in the Commission Decision.

Section 5

Entry into force and period of validity

This decision enters into force on April 1, 2000 and will be valid up to February 10, 2009.