



Consumer products

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The new EU ELV Regulation (EU) 2026/1738 has been officially released

On July 24, 2026, the Official Journal of the European Union released the new ELV Regulation (EU) 2026/1738 "Regulations on circularity requirements for vehicle design and on management of end-of-life vehicles." This regulation will take effect on August 13, 2026, and will **take effect from September 1, 2028**. At that time, the old directive 2000/53/EC will be repealed, retaining only some provisions to continue in effect. Here is a summary of the core differences between the old and new versions:

Dimension	2000/53/EC	(EU) 2026/1738
Legal Form and Effect	Directive, requiring transposition into national law by each Member State.	Regulation, directly and uniformly applicable throughout the EU without requiring transposition.
Scope of Application	Applicable to M1 (passenger cars) and N1 (light commercial vehicles), and partially to three-wheeled motor vehicles.	From September 1, 2028, applicable to M1 (passenger cars) and N1 (light commercial vehicles); From September 1, 2029, applicable to special purpose vehicles of categories M1 and N1; From September 1, 2031, applicable to buses and heavy-duty vehicles (M2, M3, N2, N3), O-category trailers, and L-category two-wheeled, three-wheeled, and four-wheeled powered vehicles.
Recycled Material Requirements	No mandatory proportions	Plastics: From September 1, 2032, new vehicle models must contain at least 15% post-consumer recycled plastic; from 2036, increased to 25%. Moreover, at least 20% of such post-consumer plastic must originate from end-of-life vehicles or components removed from vehicles during the use phase. The European Commission will subsequently establish proportions of recycled materials such as steel, aluminum, and magnesium in vehicles.
Plastic	No plastic recycling targets	From January 1, 2032, Member States shall ensure that





Recycling Targets		producers or producer responsibility organizations achieve annual plastic recycling targets for waste management operators, i.e., a recycling rate of at least 30% of the total average weight of plastics contained in end-of-life vehicles (excluding elastomers, thermosetting plastics, etc.).
Digital Management	No digital requirements	Introduction of the Digital Circularity Vehicle Passport, requiring that every vehicle placed on the market shall have such a passport from September 1, 2032.
EPR Scope and Mechanism	Producers bear part or all of the costs for collection and treatment, etc.	Strengthened producer responsibility for collection and treatment; establishment of cross-border cooperation mechanisms; introduction of a cost modulation mechanism; requirement for producers to provide financial guarantees.
Hazardous Substance Control	Lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium < 0.1%, cadmium < 0.01%, except where exempted	Continuation of restrictions on the four heavy metals; minimization of the presence of substances of concern in vehicles and their components; the European Commission shall submit a report on substances of concern in vehicles by February 2028; To ensure the coherence of chemical legislation, restrictions on the placing on the market and use of other hazardous substances in vehicles shall be subject to the relevant restrictive provisions of the EU REACH Regulation and the POPs Regulation.

Original link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2026/1738/oj>

HCT SOLUTION:

Waltek HCT Testing has long been tracking and interpreting the latest international and domestic regulatory developments, equipped with numerous top-tier instruments and equipment, a professional and efficient operations team, and extensive inspection and testing experience.

