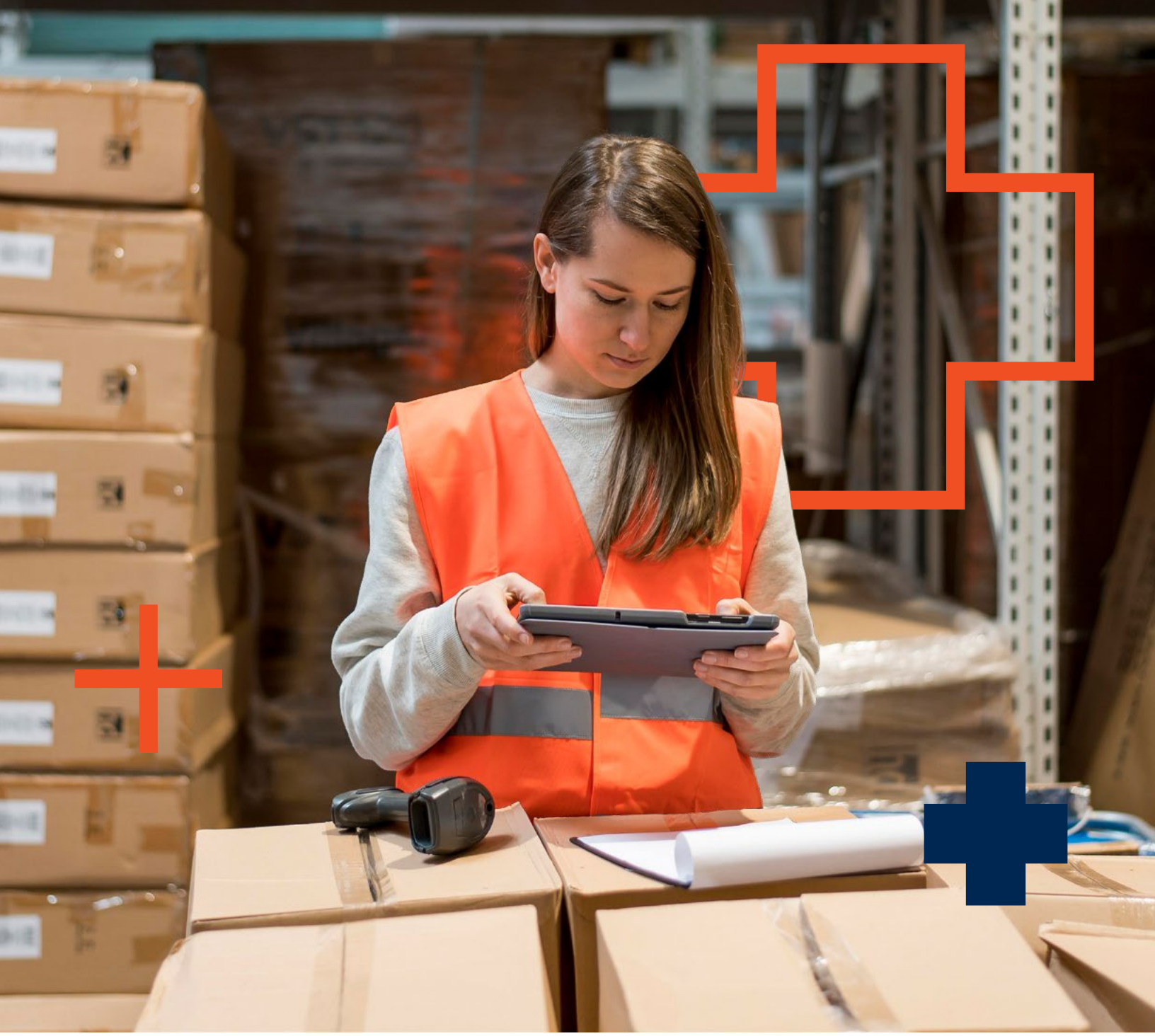


Total Cost of Ownership

Packaging Materials Scorecard

PACKAGING

BradyPLUS



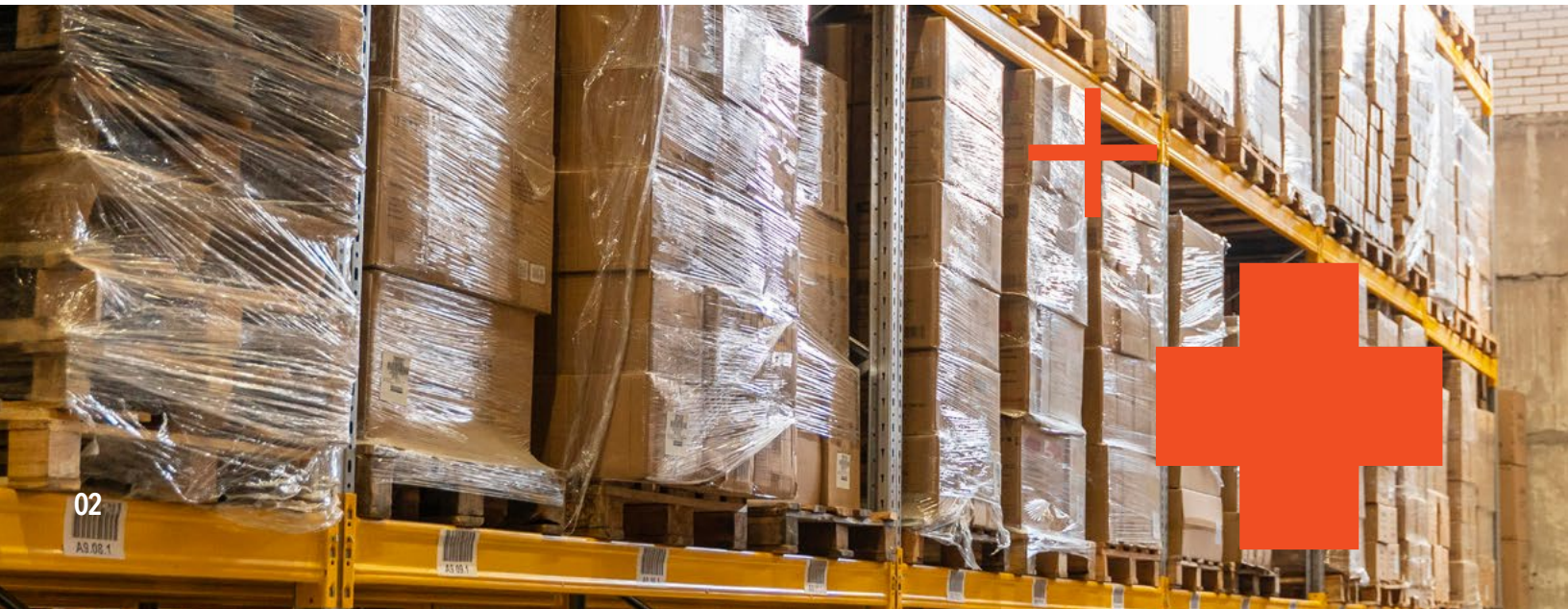
PACKAGING MATERIALS SCORECARD

This scorecard helps packaging, operations, and sustainability teams evaluate current packaging decisions through the lens of total cost of ownership and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Instructions:

For each row, select the option that best describes your current state: Low/Optimized, Medium/Needs Review, or High/Action Needed. Add notes to document additional insights.

LOW /OPTIMIZED	MEDIUM /NEEDS REVIEW	HIGH /ACTION NEEDED
Maintain and review quarterly.	Run 1–2 targeted improvement tests ("right-sizing," pack standards, freight review, etc.).	Prioritize an optimization project and quantify baseline costs first (damage, freight, material usage, EPR exposure, etc.).



SECTION 1
PROTECTION + DAMAGE RISK

Why it Matters
Damage, returns, and reshipping often outweigh material cost savings.

ASSESSMENT AREA	LOW	MED	HIGH
What is the damage rate and returns frequency?	☐	☐	☐
Does the protection level match the product risk? (Example: Fragile, heavy, temperature-control, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
Are any failure modes known and addressed? (Example: Crush, puncture, etc.)	☐	☐	☐
Is this pack method consistent across shifts/sites?	☐	☐	☐
Are the total costs and impacts of damage known? (Example: Replacements, reships, and labor)	☐	☐	☐

TIP: **If you selected Medium or High for any, pull a 90-day damage snapshot by SKU for analysis. Preventing damage usually delivers the fastest ROI.**

NOTES

SECTION 2
MATERIAL USAGE EFFICIENCY (RIGHT-SIZING)

Why it Matters
Using more material than needed increases freight costs, waste, and EPR exposure and fees.

ASSESSMENT AREA	LOW	MED	HIGH
Is your packaging "right-sized" for the product?	☐	☐	☐
Are you using void fill only when necessary?	☐	☐	☐
Are packaging layers being kept at a minimum? (Example: No unnecessary inner box or wrap being used)	☐	☐	☐
Are packaging sizes/materials standardized?	☐	☐	☐
Is your material usage per shipment known? (Example: Amount of tape, stretch film, void fill, etc.)	☐	☐	☐

TIP: **Concentrate on right-sizing your top 5–10 SKUs by volume for the quickest impact.**

NOTES

SECTION 3
FREIGHT + DIMENSIONAL WEIGHT IMPACT

Why it Matters

Dimensional (DIM) weight charges often cause higher freight costs versus material cost.

ASSESSMENT AREA	LOW	MED	HIGH
Does your team calculate the DIM weight costs for shipping packaging?	☐	☐	☐
Is unused cube or "air" shipped being minimized?	☐	☐	☐
Are your freight costs reviewed with packaging changes?	☐	☐	☐
Are multi-item orders consolidated effectively?	☐	☐	☐
Does your packaging align with carrier pricing tiers? (Especially around holiday surcharges)	☐	☐	☐

TIP: **Identify the SKU with the highest volume and test smaller and/or other packaging options to quantify potential freight savings.**

NOTES

SECTION 4
LABOR + PACK-OUT EFFICIENCY

Why it Matters

Labor inefficiencies compound quickly at scale.

ASSESSMENT AREA	LOW	MED	HIGH
Are the required pack-out steps at a minimum?	☐	☐	☐
Is it easy for new staff to pack correctly?	☐	☐	☐
Are material handling and touches at a minimum?	☐	☐	☐
Are you following ergonomic and safe pack processes?	☐	☐	☐
Are materials easy to locate and replenish?	☐	☐	☐

TIP: Time 15–20 pack-outs to find where labor time is being lost.

NOTES

SECTION 5
EPR FEE EXPOSURE + MATERIAL IMPLICATIONS

Why it Matters

EPR fees depend on material type, weight, and total lifecycle shipments.

ASSESSMENT AREA	LOW	MED	HIGH
Are primary, secondary, and tertiary packaging materials clearly documented?	☐	☐	☐
Is the packaging weight per shipment/SKU known?	☐	☐	☐
Does your team understand which materials drive higher EPR fees?	☐	☐	☐
Do you have a material reduction strategy in place?	☐	☐	☐
Is lifecycle logic being considered for complete EPR exposure? (Example: reships)	☐	☐	☐

TIP: **Focus first on reducing total material weight for high-volume shipments.**

NOTES

SECTION 6
DATA + REPORTING READINESS

Why it Matters

Accurate data is critical as EPR programs expand nationwide to avoid expensive fines. Pay close attention as reporting requirements, fee structures, and compliance deadlines vary by state.

ASSESSMENT AREA	LOW	MED	HIGH
Does clear EPR ownership or task force exist?	☐	☐	☐
Is your packaging data system-based or centralized?	☐	☐	☐
Does your supplier documentation support reporting?	☐	☐	☐
Are any changes in packaging and data updated reliably?	☐	☐	☐
Do you have audit-ready documentation available?	☐	☐	☐

TIP: **Identify stakeholders, document responsibilities, and centralize data for streamlined, manageable workflows and reporting.**

NOTES

SUMMARY + NEXT STEPS

Review selections and prioritize areas marked Medium/Needs Review or High/ Action Needed. Identify top 3 actions to reduce total cost of ownership and EPR exposure.

ANALYZE YOUR RESULTS

LOW /OPTIMIZED
Maintain and review quarterly.

MEDIUM /NEEDS REVIEW
Run 1–2 targeted improvement tests ("right-sizing," pack standards, freight review, etc.).

HIGH /ACTION NEEDED
Prioritize an optimization project and quantify baseline costs first (damage, freight, material usage, EPR exposure, etc.).

TOP PRIORITIES

PRIORITY #1

PRIORITY #2

PRIORITY #3

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Want to optimize your Packaging Operations?

BradyPLUS packaging and equipment specialists' partner with you to review your packaging program holistically and identify areas for cost savings, efficiency, and improvement.

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