

# A package deal

## Sustainability and technology are innovation drivers

**P**ackaging, scales, and labels are retail workhorses. These disparate but interrelated categories are integral to the overall consumer experience and vital to both retail and wholesale.

### Current state of play

The Covid pandemic has caused a ripple effect in almost every industry, particularly those connected to retail. Logistical issues, delays, raw material shortages, an unreliable electricity supply, and rising costs have all had an impact on the packaging, labelling, and scales industries. Meanwhile cost, local production or manufacture, low carbon footprint, and manufacturing efficiency are more important than ever. Added to this is the global move towards reducing plastic usage, energy efficient, recyclable, and eco-friendly products. In particular ...

“ Packaging and labels demand innovation, but also need to be functional and meet safety, hygiene, stock control and legislative requirements. ”



Image courtesy of Forestry South Africa

This often results in two disparate worlds trying to find common ground and why we still see an abundance of environmentally unfriendly packaging and label solutions.

### The price of packaging

The UN Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26) highlighted the negative impact of single use

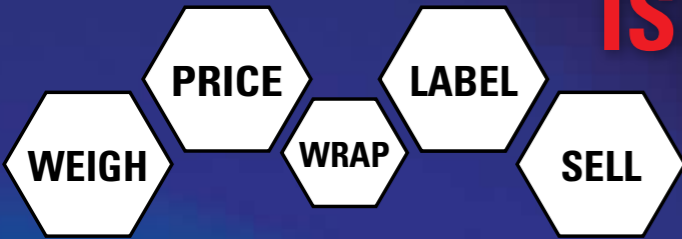
plastics and expanded polystyrene on the environment, with attending countries promising to legislate in order to reduce this impact. Globally consumers are demanding sustainable, recyclable, and biodegradable packaging. A comprehensive green strategy is no longer a nice to have, it is a business must.

Cling film is a case in point. Cling film contains PVC, and some PVC products are not recyclable



# Automatic weigh/wrap/label machine that can wrap an 80 tray perfectly every time.

## ISHIDA WM-AI



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- 12.1 Colour touch screen offering user friendliness
- Small footprint – occupies 1.12m<sup>2</sup> of floor space
- Fast operation speed up to 35 packs per minute
- Hygienic design with stainless steel covers limiting the use of plastics
- Easy to remove and clean parts, increasing productivity and production
- 2 film operation wraps smallest to largest trays available (up to an 80 tray)
- Eye catching label designs
- Operator adjustable wrapping tensions
- No openings on the bottom of wrapped trays
- Auto tray detection and centering for accurate label placement
- Dual Labeller version available to label packs with ingredients or promo labels on demand



**ISHIDA UNI-9 Range**



**ISHIDA UNI-5/7 Range**



**ISHIDA UNI-3 Label Printing Scale range**



**\*\*Uni Series now available in Linerless\*\***  
 Simply a CUT above the rest



– although the industry has done much in recent years to reduce its overall environmental impact. Paradoxically, one of the biggest problems are the emissions caused by the PVC recycling process.

For years the problem with PVC alternatives has been cost and quality – alternatives cost too much or were just not good enough for commercial use. Food wrap experts Superthene is one such manufacturer that provides a viable option.



“With major South African retailer Woolworths pledging to do away with problematic PVC packaging, they have been driving a large-scale conversion to 100% recyclable Superthene.”

To date, Superthene has been involved in converting all Woolworths poultry suppliers, in-store butcheries in Cape Town, their crumbed chicken supplier, and their in-store contract packager or copackers. Several other major retailers, including the Spar group, are also looking at replacing their PVC packaging with Superthene.

Director at Superthene Roy Keytel says, “We use a combination of cutting-edge Polyolefin polymers – high-quality polymers that are fully recyclable –

and a specifically designed production process to offer a viable alternative to conventional PVC food wrap.”

Not only is the product viable, but it also has several key advantages over regular PVC-based food wrap. It is completely recyclable and photo-degradable, it comes in at a very competitive price, and the film is thinner and stretchier than regular cling film, which makes it easier on equipment.



Keytel adds, “We are the only CANSA-approved commercial producer in our field. Our product contains absolutely no plasticizers and is non-toxic.” Superthene uses 36% less raw materials than conventional PVC cling film and has gas interchange properties that can prolong shelf-life.

Keytel says other innovations include a micro perforating system, the food wrap’s ability to withstand very low temperatures and its capability to inhibit the growth of viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Ideal for use in the fresh produce industry, hot needles perforate the film, which helps with water vapor properties for super-breathability, while another product in the range remains

ductile to -120°C, making it ideal for blast freezer applications. Superthene Plus offers anti-microbial properties for extended shelf-life for a wide range of foodstuffs.

“The product, which can be used for hand or automated wrapping, also offers unique barrier properties that prolong the colour change in meat and poultry, keeping these items fresher for longer in display fridges.”

Keytel says, “Polyethylene, by nature of the polymer, has a far greater tensile strength than that of PVC, making it stronger and more puncture resistant. This means smaller sized rolls and lower gauges can be used, making it more economical.”

It is fair to say that as more environmentally friendly options become available and affordable, consumers are less willing to overlook a lack of change in retail packaging. It is not inconceivable that shoppers may start to boycott products that fail to comply to certain eco-standards.

### The other side of the PVC coin

In early February 2022, The Southern African Vinyls Association (SAVA), supported by members of the Global Vinyls Council (GVC), issued a press release rejecting the Phase 1 list of “problematic and unnecessary plastics” published recently by the SA Plastics Pact. The list named 12 plastic products that should be banned or entirely phased out, including “PVC rigid packaging (including

# MAKE PVC YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE

Considering that hospitals rely on PVC (vinyl) to help protect against superbugs and infections – **shouldn't you use it for your packaging too?**

Using vinyl packaging can preserve and conserve food by guaranteeing a longer shelf-life, improving food safety, reducing bacterial proliferation and protecting against external contamination.



**Cling Film**



**Bottles & Labels**



**Other Packaging**

[www.savinyls.co.za](http://www.savinyls.co.za)

**Low Carbon:** PVC is an intrinsically low-carbon plastic. 57% of its molecular weight is chlorine derived from common salt; 5% is hydrogen; and 38% is carbon.

**Recyclable and sustainable:** It's extremely durable, cost efficient and it can be recycled several times at the end of its life without losing its essential properties.

bottles, except for medicine packaging), pallet shrink wrap and labels.” A low recycling rate, potentially harmful additives in PVC materials, and environmental concerns were listed in the reasoning.

In the release that responded to the Phase 1 list, Monique Holtzhausen, CEO of SAVA, stated, “Our latest recycling figures clearly show that there is a strong demand for PVC recycle in South Africa. During the 2020 reporting period, a total amount of 21 433 tons of PVC were recycled in our country, of which 13 440 tonnes were flexible (PVC-P) and 7 992 tonnes were rigid (PVC-U).



PVC was the only polymer to have recorded a year-on-year increase of 9.5% despite very difficult trading conditions such as global raw material shortages and supply chain issues, high material costs, interrupted electricity supply due to load shedding and the ravaging effects of Covid-19.”

“The recent global shortage in raw materials and high polymer prices has driven the demand for recycle even further.”

Holtzhausen also addressed the environmental, health and safety concerns by reiterating that all its members are signatories of its Product Stewardship Commitment (PSC), which addresses the PVC industry’s environmental issues. She says ...

“Our PSC is based on international health and safety standards and best practice models which specify sustainable manufacturing, sustainable use of additives, closed loop management and sustainability awareness.”

She noted that should the proposed bans take place, the impact on local manufacturers could be dire, endangering thousands of jobs during an already fraught and difficult period.

“The plastics industry contributed 20% to our country’s Manufacturing GDP in 2020. The industry is dominated by packaging and any decision to ban a specific stream will have significant consequences on thousands of people. Although only 9% of locally consumed PVC goes into packaging such as bottles, thermoformed punnets, blister packs, clingfilm and other flexible packaging, it is important to note that it has very specific and necessary application values that cannot be ignored.”

Simply banning plastic without putting in place acceptable alternatives and ensuring existing industries and jobs are protected, could be as catastrophic as ignoring the plastics issue entirely.



## WHAT PVC CAN YOU RECYCLE?

There isn’t really an easy answer to this. In general, PVC 3 Polyvinyl chloride can be recycled; this includes bottles, clear toiletry and food trays, and cling film. But sorting your plastics, cleaning and drying them, and then finding a recycling company that accepts PVC products could be where you hit a stumbling block. The best option is to contact your recycling partner directly. They should be willing to examine samples of your PVC product and let you know what can and what cannot be recycled. This will enable you to set benchmarks and quotas for your recycling programme.

### Removing plastics from the equation

Banning plastic bags has become a reality, with more than 30 African countries implementing bans – although the enforcement of these laws amid concerns around job losses and lack of viable alternatives is proving to be a challenge.

However, it does show that environmental concerns are gaining ground in a diversity of markets globally. By ditching plastic bags at checkout and in the fruit and veg aisles, supermarkets, chain stores, and independent



# KEMTEK: KEEPING RETAIL UP TO SPEED AND P.O.S. ON POINT.



Studies show that new products are being brought to market at a faster rate than ever, making bar coding and related technologies more important and integral than ever. Via its network of resellers, Kemtek Bar Coding Solutions supplies quality products and advanced technologies

from the world's leading brands for every retail and POS application. And beyond these, we provide valuable advice and technical support from our own knowledgeable industry specialists. To view our vast product line-up, visit our website and contact us directly for more information.

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Godex | Honeywell | ITW Thermal Films | Ivanti | Marson | NiceLabel | ProGlove | SATO | Seiko  
Sewoo | SMS | Sysdev Mobile | Todaytec | TTR Ribbon Material | UIC | VXL Software | Zhuoli



retailers can make an impact. Selling reasonably priced alternatives is also an additional revenue stream, although these are still quite often considered to be a grudge purchase. Surprisingly, we haven't seen supplier-branded long-life shopping bags on offer – is there a missed opportunity here?

Plastic fabrication company Zibo Containers has embarked on a drive to reduce plastics in their packaging options, removing the inner box LDPE liner from their food-safe containers. This important step in removing excess plastics has not compromised their product structurally, nor has it affected its performance, application, or food safety.



**Food Miles: What's the Big Deal?**

Your food is transported a long way before it ends up on your plate. The distance travelled is referred to as food miles.

Did you know:

- 95% of our fruit comes from abroad;
- Half our vegetables are imported, too;
- 30% of goods transported by lorry is food;
- We import over 16 million tonnes of food each year;
- 1% of our food has been on a plane?

Image courtesy of Daria Shevtsova, Pexels

Shoppers like to feel good about what they're buying, and informed consumers want to know the story behind their purchases. Information, presented as captivatingly as possible, is key.

# Storyselling

One of the latest packaging trends is connected packaging.

Consumers want to know the provenance of their food ...

They want to know if it is local, organic, sustainably-sourced, good for the environment, and good for them. Storyselling is the art of using packaging and labels to tell a story and encourage sales.

## Labels ... changes are afoot

Raw material shortages, delivery delays, and increased costs have made an impact on the labelling category. Added to this is the call for increased sustainability and recyclability. Consequently, change in the labels category have dramatically sped up, driving innovation and the adoption of new technologies.

### The technology behind labels

There is an abundance of technology in play when it comes to labels. Full automation reduces costs and fewer human touch points reduce the risk of contamination.

Auto-cut machines with smart design capabilities can automatically detect unused white space and remove it from the label, reducing the label size and saving on materials.

The effect of climate change on the labelling industry also cannot be underestimated as tech developers and manufacturers work to reduce energy costs, increase energy efficiency, and minimise environmental impact. Environmentally friendly inks are a small but important step to consider.

SERVING SIZE		Nutrition Facts		CALORIES PER SERVING	
1.	8 servings per container	Serving size 2/3 cup (55g)		230	
Amount per serving		Calories		230	
NUTRIENTS TO LIMIT		Total Fat 8g		10%	
4.		Saturated Fat 1g		5%	
		Trans Fat 0g			
		Cholesterol 0mg		0%	
		Sodium 180mg		7%	
		Total Carbohydrate 37g		13%	
		Dietary Fiber 4g		14%	
		Total Sugars 12g			
		Includes 10g Added Sugars		20%	
5. BENEFICIAL NUTRIENTS		Protein 3g			
		Vitamin D 2mcg		10%	
		Calcium 260mg		20%	
		Iron 8mg		45%	
		Potassium 240mg		6%	

# SM-6000 Scale

Teraoka's Digital PC Based Scale fully equipped with the latest technology and **enhancing features that provides smooth and efficient practicality** for both operators and shoppers.

- Large 768px x 1024px customer display
- Linerless Label with auto-cutter
- Queue Management
- Waste Management
- Power saving
- Capacitive touch
- Speed ID, e.Sense and Hi-Touch.



*Searching for  
a New Balance*



## Linerless Labelling

Variable length labelling.

**Various Images make the label more attractive.**

Conforms to ingredient Regulations.

- Auto-cut label to the exact desired length!
- No blank spaces on the label!
- Communicate messages to customers
- No Liner / Backing paper, reduced waste

### Teraoka provides:

- Electronic Scales
- Weighing and Labelling
- Inspection Equipment
- Barcode Printers
- Auto Wrappers
- Scale Labels
- Promo Labels
- Spare Parts
- Support



## Power Pop

Integrated Price card solutions **picks up price changes via software and prints automatically.**

High quality prints, cards are hygienic, easy to clean and food safe.

- Aesthetically pleasing to look at
- Scale initiated printing
- Price track
- Compact design
- 100 card input hopper
- Up to 1500 prints/ribbon
- Custom designs to feature your logo and more



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**Cancelling release liners puts the brakes on tons of waste**

Release liners are made from glassine that has been coated with a release agent, making the entire product unsuitable for recycling.

Teraoka sales director Michael Stent says, "Traditionally label backing sheets go to landfill as they cannot be recycled. Working with Woolworths we discovered that, as a group, they were sending 27 rugby fields of label liners to landfill every year. That's 138 000m of waste. They have eliminated this waste by converting all their scales to linerless label scales."

It's a massive environmental saving, and according to Stent, the Shoprite Checkers and

Pick n Pay groups are following suit. "We may be an emerging market with a third-world economy, but when it comes to environmental awareness, our supermarkets are excellent," says Stent.

According to [www.labelsandlabeling.com](http://www.labelsandlabeling.com), "Currently, less than five percent of the 60 billion square meters of global production of laminates with silicone liners are reused or recycled." Linerless labels are undoubtedly the way forward.

In terms of corporate social responsibility and environmental impact, Teraoka provides bespoke practical labelling and wrapping solutions and related consumables to meet the corporate vision. They provide a locally developed and manufactured product for new stores, as well as revamps, and can advise on the most efficient process for converting a store or chain to become more sustainable through reducing or converting its current usage.

According to Stent. ...

“There are several benefits of linerless scale labels, They are environmentally friendly, reduce wastage, are cost effective, and provide value for money.”

Removing the need for glassine release liners saves 135 tons of wood pulp, or about 3 602 trees. There is also a water saving of 3 001 576 litres, as well as reduced carbon emissions.

“Currently Teraoka avoids disposing of 2 501 313m<sup>2</sup> of glassine liner to landfills across the country each year. This equates to enough glassine liner to cover 500 rugby fields that does not go to landfill.”

"Linerless labels are also cost effective as they are roughly five percent cheaper than conventional labels. You also get more labels per roll – twice as many labels can be wound onto a linerless label roll with the same dimensions as a lined roll. This means less roll changes for the operator," says Stent.

Packaging and labelling go hand-in-hand when it comes to the consumer experience. Eye-catching and attractive products are more appealing, but labels need to be clear and concise, while also containing both legally mandated information,





**Call us to discuss your price tag solution!**

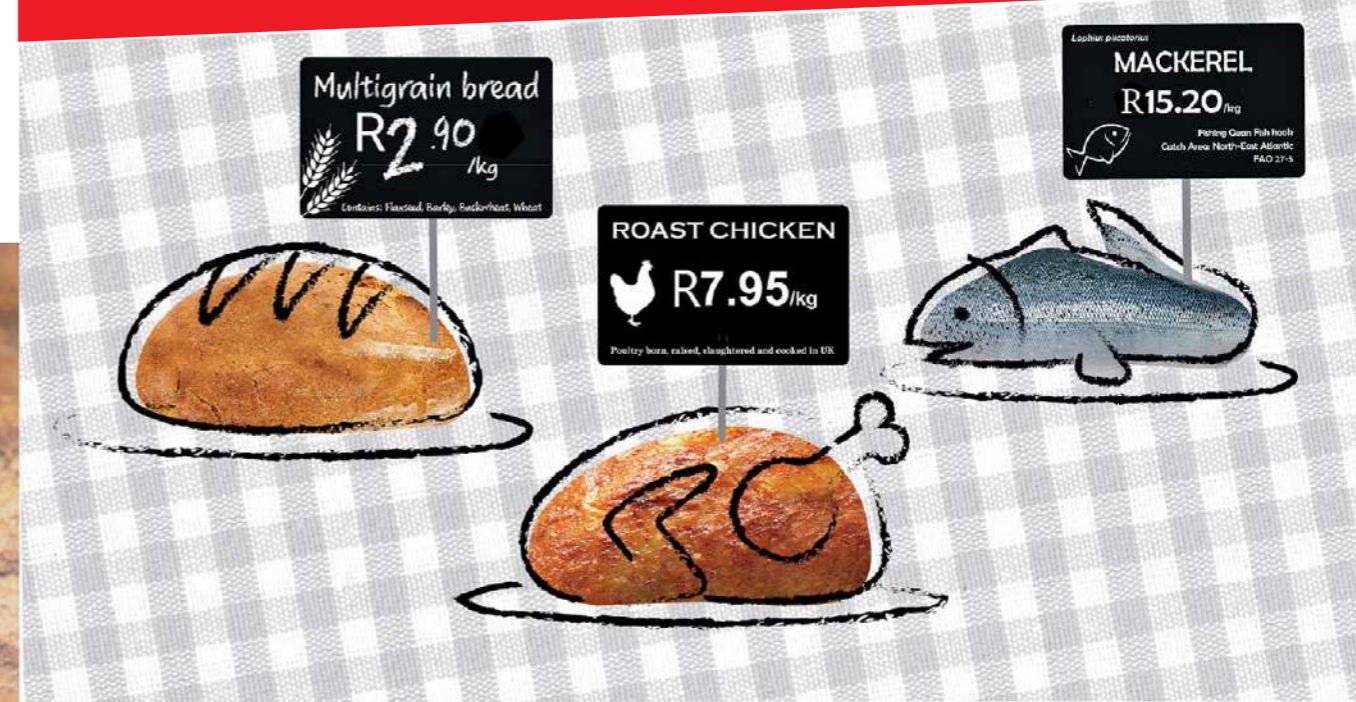
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# Your Hygienic & Informative PRICE TAGS ON PLASTIC CARDS



FRONT OF THE CARD FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS



Product name  
 Price  
 Image or logo  
 Allergens

BACK OF THE CARD FOR YOUR STAFF



Barcode  
 PLU reference  
 Other information  
 Sales tip



**e Time Saving and Flexible**

**e Hygienic and Durable**

**e A Stronger Brand Image**

**e Easy to Read**

**e Food Compliant**



such as weight, price, and nutritional content. Other details that inform consumers whether a product is locally grown, organic, preservative-free, gluten-free, or heart-healthy are also becoming increasingly important.

**Consider the environment first**

Non-cyclable packaging and labels are major contributors to environmental destruction. We need change, and we need it fast. By implementing a -swop-this-for-that approach, every positive change you make in your store is a plus for the planet.



Consumers are ready for change and want to see it happening.



Global manufacturer of paper and woodpulp products, Sappi, in its tips on how to reduce, reuse and recycle, sums it up well ...

“ Reusing manufactured materials and containers is a discipline that was second nature to our parents and grandparents, and is one that we all need to develop again.”



# BIZERBA

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- ▶ Counter top self-service.
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- ▶ Large RAM.
- ▶ 3-in-1 printer.



- ▶ Print ingredient information on label.
- ▶ Print Country of Origin & extra product description on label.
- ▶ Enter new batch number (LOT) when supplier batch changes.
- ▶ Easy data maintenance via tablet or mobile phone.
- ▶ Plug & play ready.

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**BIZERBA**



maintained, and operated to realise optimal efficiency. Converting your old system to a new one can be a costly project, but the savings that can be achieved should certainly be researched to determine whether you will see a return on your investment – and the answer may surprise you!

the application of legal requirements to measurements and measuring instruments – ensures that your business is legally trading your products to your customers.

The NRCS (National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications) surveys a wide spectrum of fields to ensure fair trade, including mass measuring instruments (scales). “It is critical to ensure that your scales are being repaired and verified in the correct manner, which allows you to use the scales to accurately weigh an item that your clients pay for.”

### An integrated workforce

Scales, automatic wrappers, slicers, and associated equipment play an important role in consumer trust. Your equipment needs to be efficient, effective, accurate, and hygienic. Ensuring proper cleaning, servicing, maintenance, and repairs is critical. **SR**

## The science of scales

Scales must be accurate and linked to a store’s point of sale system, with correct barcodes, and easy to use. A store’s fresh produce department, butchery, bakery, and deli are especially reliant on scales, either for back of house food prep or customer facing pricing.

The advent of AI and the Internet of Things (IOT), as well as cloud-based software services that link your entire retail chain – scales, wrappers, labelling machines, and till points included, has enabled retailers to increase efficiency, reduce food shrinkage and wastage, and stay on top of price changes, promotions, and store inventory easily. Saving time and labour hours are an added bonus, but the system needs to be well-designed,

### Legal requirements for scales in retail

Avocet Scales and Labels, suppliers of weighing scales, label printers, and associated consumables, says retailers should ensure their scales and labelling suppliers have a strong technical background, and full on-road maintenance, service, and repair solution.

SANAS accreditation is also important, and it’s important to ascertain that your service provider has the ability to verify an approved weighing device within a capacity range of 3 to 1 500kg, as is the legal requirement.

In terms of legal requirements, Avocet encourages all retailers and wholesalers to understand what exactly is expected of any business that uses equipment to weigh and label a product that is then supplied to customers. Legal Metrology –

<https://www.karlknauer.com/en/innovation-and-trends/packaging/eco-friendly-packaging-for-fruit-and-vegetables>.  
<https://mg.co.za/article/2021-06-18-sustainable-food-packaging/>



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# CASE CLOSED

## Energy Saving Solutions

Glacier Door Systems has introduced the Air Shield ('Close the Case') Glass Door retrofit solution for refrigerated supermarket display cases, as well as the Eco Leaf Replacement Glass Door for existing glass door freezer rooms and glass door freezer display cabinets. Both solutions guarantee energy-savings in an ever-increasing energy cost environment. Part of the well-established Universal Industries Group, Glacier has 26 years' experience and are acknowledged industry leaders in refrigeration door technology. Innovative and forward-thinking, the company is built on cutting-edge technology, technical expertise and a customer-centric approach.

## Air Shield Glass Doors

### Features and Benefits

- Double glazed glass doors with Argon gas fill for superior insulation.
- Glass durability and clarity with torsion bar for positive closing.
- Glass door heating option for high humidity environments.
- Glass doors available with hold open brackets and LED lighting options.
- Flex modelling means glass panels are customised to fit existing cabinets and are tailored to suit each store's specific environment.

**A quick and easy energy-saving retrofit solution, Air Shield Glass Doors can be fitted to any existing open refrigeration case, saving up to 40% on energy consumption.**



**Note:** The value proposal is based on R1.31 per kWh and 40% energy saving. These are averages based on our experience and can be validated per store.

### The value benefit

- High-quality locally manufactured solutions featuring the latest energy-saving technology.
- Demonstrated good pay back periods can be expected.
- Customised solutions to suit your store.
- ISO 9001 accredited factory.
- Safety toughened glass in accordance with SABS/SANS certification.
- Flexible installation timing to offset any customer disruption.
- Financing options available.

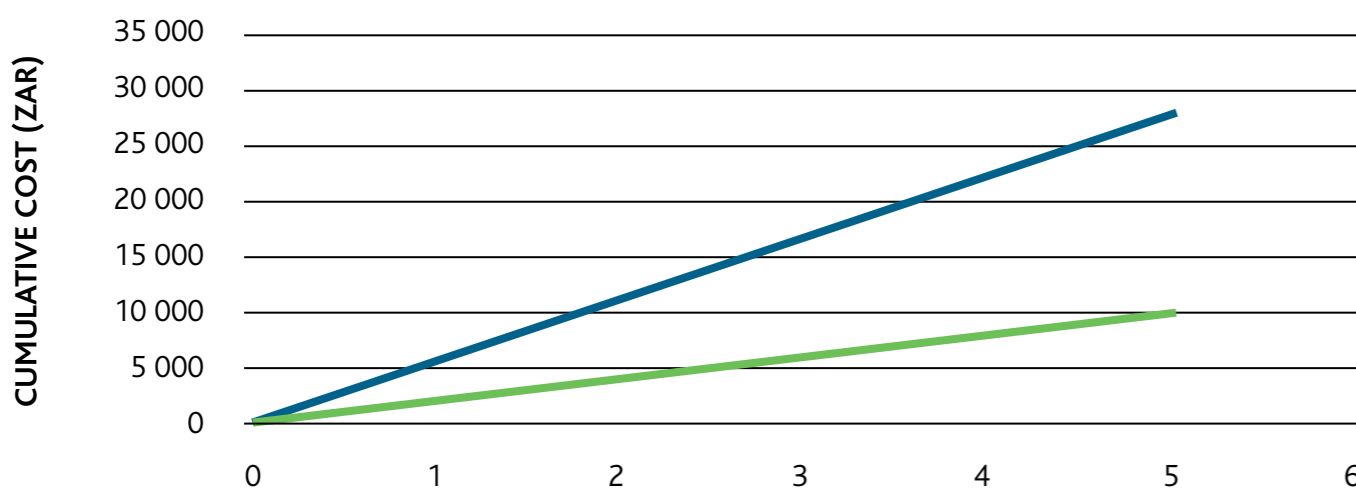
**You can trust a Glacier door**



### Eco Leaf Freezer Doors

Designed as a 'swop-out', energy-saving replacement glass door utilising 220V technology that eliminates the need for voltage-reducing capacitors. This results in an amperage reduction from 1.29A on the standard door to 0.46A (64%) with the replacement Eco Leaf Door.

The Eco Leaf door is 64% more efficient than the standard door. The value proposal is based on R1.31 per kWh and 64% energy saving. These are averages based on our experience and can be validated per store.



	AMPS	VOLTS	WATTS
Glacier Eco Leaf Door	0,46	230	105.8
Glacier Standard Door	1,29	230	296.7