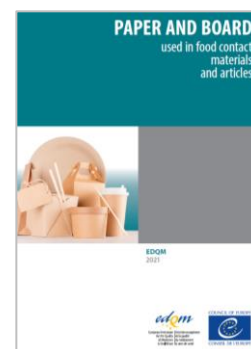


Council of Europe releases Technical Guide on paper and board.

The European Directorate for Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) has published the first edition of the Technical Guide entitled “Paper and board used in food contact materials and articles”.

The publication now available from the EDQM website <https://freepub.edqm.eu/publications> (search filter food contact) contains, in part 1 the “general” Resolution CM/Res (2020)9 on the safety and quality of materials and articles for contact with food and in part 2 the Technical Guide on Paper and board.



The scope of the Technical Guide includes materials and articles for all types of food contact applications (plates, cups, straws, baking and filter papers, food packaging, kitchen towels, napkins etc.). The requirements for other materials converters are using, such as adhesives, printing inks or plastics are not covered. The migration limits set in the Technical Guide for some constituents or contaminants apply however to the final article.

The now published content is identical to the last year released final draft. As mentioned in the FC update 10/11/2020, the Council of Europe publications are strengthening the position of the downstream users in obtaining accurate food safety information. DOCs must be issued at all stages of the supply chain and suppliers introducing substances are also responsible for the NIAS substances which may appear further down in converting processes. In the Technical Guide on paper and board, is stated how it is allowed to provide protection against migrants by a combination of packaging layers. (FC update 6/05/2020) This avoids only 99% efficient barriers are presented as safe when a risk assessment is indicating the need for protection against contaminants. (See publication p.28 General requirements)

For the mineral oils the included table with contaminants stipulates the MOH are under discussion, with the following comment : “Until a specific migration limit or other restrictions based on the evaluation of the latest available scientific evidence can be established, producers or other operators responsible for placing on the market of food contact materials and articles are recommended to keep migration of MOH as low as reasonably feasible and to ensure that migration of genotoxic, carcinogenic MOAH’s does not occur.” The last part of the comment allows for argumentation on the different classes of MOAH.

As well known the provided guidance by the Council of Europe is not legally binding, but can for instance be used by the authorities as a reference to assess compliance with Article 3 of the FCFR 1935/2004.

New Co-Chair - ECMA Food Safety Committee

Jack Pieterse has stepped down as Chairman of the Food Safety Committee. He has chaired the committee in an excellent way since September 2016. Under his guidance the Committee has, among many other things, been repositioning the GMP publication into one that is well in line with the current new market expectations.

As communicated in the general mail to members (9/06), the chairmanship will be now shared by Ute Stemmer Letnik (Mayr Melnhof Packaging) and Mike Turner (ECMA).

This guarantees a solid ongoing monitoring by the Committee, of the developments in the field of food safety.



Upcoming Seminars and Congresses

14-16 June (online)

Smithers Global Food Contact <https://www.food-contact.com/global-food-contact>

24-25 June (online)

10th International Akademie Fresenius Conference "Residues of Food Contact Materials in Food".

<https://www.akademie-fresenius.com/events/detail/produkt/10th-international-akademie-fresenius-conference-residues-of-food-contact-materials-in-food-onl/>

29th June (online)

PTS seminar "Microplastics and Single Use Plastics Directive (SUPD)-definitions, regulatory situation, analytical methods, alternative materials"

https://www.ptspaper.com/events/?status=details&event_id=10538&cHash=0ce639648c2b831d3b86d0fdb85549d5

14th July (online)

Keller & Heckman webinar "REACH 30/30"

<https://www.khlaw.com/events/reach-3030-july-14-2021>

7-8 September (Munich)

PTS Coating Symposium

https://www.ptspaper.com/?status=details&event_id=10478&id=3059

6th October (online)

Food Packaging Forum Workshop "Different perspectives on food contact materials: Working together to make FCMs safer."

<https://www.foodpackagingforum.org/events/workshop2021>

6-7 October (online)

PTS seminar "Recyclability of paper & board based packaging."

https://www.ptspaper.com/events/?status=details&event_id=10509&cHash=ea82d70b8cbe79b55ac4df0ebd497f97

7-8 October (online)

PTS seminar "Surface functionalization of paper & board packaging."

https://www.ptspaper.com/events/?status=details&event_id=10485&cHash=483f45cdb6fe0e77e61fce4916dadeafa

13-14 October (Grenoble)

CTP innovative projects and fibre-based product development for packaging.

<https://www.webctp.com/en/save-the-date-13th-and-14th-of-october-2021>

2-4 November (Barcelona)

Smithers conference "Sustainability in Packaging Europe"

<https://www.smithers.com/services/events/2021-conferences/sustainability-in-packaging-europe-2021>

4-6 May 2022 (Barcelona)

ILSI 7th International Symposium on Food Packaging - Scientific Developments Supporting Safety and Innovation.

<https://ilsi.eu/event/7th-international-symposium-on-food-packaging-scientific-developments-supporting-safety-and-innovation/>

