

Packaging and Packaging Waste regulation

As the PPWR has now been formally adopted, the included PFAS restrictions will become applicable mid- 2026.

Food contact packaging shall not be placed on the market if it contains per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in a concentration equal or above the following limit values:

- . 25 ppb for any PFAS as measured with targeted PFAS analysis
- . 250 ppb for the sum of PFAS measured as sum of targeted PFAS analysis
- . 50 ppm for PFASs (polymeric PFAS included)



This is aligned with the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)'s universal PFAS restriction proposal. An evaluation to assess the need to amend the restriction under the PPWR is foreseen within four years.

The PPWR maintains the heavy metal restrictions. The sum of the concentrations of lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium resulting from substances present in the packaging or packaging components shall not exceed 100 mg/kg.

Article 5 stipulates also, the Commission shall monitor the presence of substances of concern in packaging and packaging components and shall take, where appropriate, the relevant follow-up measures.

By 31 December 2026, the Commission, assisted by ECHA, shall prepare a report on the presence of substances of concern in packaging and packaging components, to determine the extent to which they negatively affect the re-use and recycling of materials or impact chemical safety. The report may list the substances of concern present in packaging and packaging components and indicate the extent to which they could present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

Sources used: Keller & Heckman, EUR Lex, PackagingDive.com

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:PE_73_2024_INIT

<https://www.khlaw.com/insights/eu-proposal-regulation-packaging-and-packaging-waste-nearing-adoption-highlights-and>

Appropriate testing conditions for cartons

In the course of 2024 appropriate testing conditions have been covered several times in the FC updates with especially the ECMA statement published the 30/04.

In recent months this statement has been further discussed with leading experts.

From ISEGA we obtained the reply they are carrying out tests at 40°C and that test temperatures above 40°C are considered unsuitable for paper and board.

Generally, a testing time of 10 days is sufficient for most carton structures.

The reply nevertheless also refers to the Technical Specification DIN SPEC 5010:2018, co-written by ISEGA and which will be converted into a European Standard.

In this specification is stated, test conditions of 10 days/40°C can be used to assess storage up to 12 months at room temperature, whereas 30 days/40°C covers up to 24 months at RT. See reply annexed. Further work in this will follow.

BRCGS Global Packaging Materials

On 28/10 the new Issue 7 of the BRCGS Global Packaging Standard was published. A transition period of six months is foreseen for sites and auditors to review the standard, complete training and prepare, before audits are performed. Audits against this new Issue 7 will commence on the 28/04/25.



A first indicative overview of some changes compared to Issue 6, based on a presentation by Emilie Hirsoux (LNE - Laboratoire national de métrologie et d'essais) <https://www.lne.fr> at the Club MCAS Seminar 28/11) :

Clause in Issue 7	Reference in Issue 6	Changes / Comments
Chapter 1	Chapter 1	Senior management commitment
1.1.2	1.1.2	More examples are provided on activities to improve and further develop the product safety and quality culture. Key staff members need to be present during audit to assess the included requirements.
1.1.3	1.2.4	A confidential mechanism needs to be in place, allowing personnel to report safety, legal compliance and quality issues.
Chapter 2	Chapter 2	Hazard analysis and risk assessment. All requirements are now presented in conformity with GFSI and the Codex Alimentarius.
2.2.1		Covers the prerequisite programmes.
2.4.2	2.2.5	Control of the process flow diagram in the factory.
2.5.3	2.2.7	Control measures. Justification for acceptable levels.
2.6.1	2.2.8	Identification of the critical control measures. Logical approach needed.
2.7.2- 2.7.3	2.2.9- 5.4.4	Validation of CCM and control of equipment.
Chapter 3	Chapter 3	Procedures, process, plans, risk assessments, registrations, need always to be documented even if this is not specifically mentioned.
3.4.1	3.4.1	Active and intelligent materials added.
3.5.1	3.5.1	Internal audits throughout the year.
3.9.1	3.10.1	Monitoring and approval of suppliers of services. Outsourced processes and servicing and maintenance, added.
3.10.4	3.11.4	Traceability tests should be completed in 4h.
Chapter 4	Chapter 4	Site standards.
4.3	4.3	Utilities shall be suitable for the intended use.
4.6	4.6	Need to develop specifications before sourcing new or new to the site equipment.
4.9.4		Allergen management. Allergens are also added in 2.5.1.
Chapter 5	Chapter 5	Product and process control.
5.4.6		Procedure in case of equipment failure.
5.4.7		Quantity control.
5.4.8		Sample conservation in accordance with customer requirements.
5.4.10		Monitoring of products, materials and zones outside the scope of the certification.
Chapter 6	Chapter 6	Personnel
6.2.1-6.4.1-6.5.1	6.2.1-6.4.1-6.5.1	Notion direct /indirect contact was left out.
Chapter 7	Chapter 7	Traded products.
7.1.1		Obligation to have HARA plans for all operations for which the site is responsible.
7.2.2	7.1.2	Approval and monitoring of manufacturers/ packers of traded products. Need to assess/verify traceability.

General Product Safety Regulation. (GPSR)

Regulation (EU) 2023/988 on general product safety became applicable on 13/12.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/988/oj>

This regulation applies to products available for distribution, consumption or use in the EU, which are not covered by other specific EU product safety legislation.

In case of existing legislation, the product remains in scope regarding the risks and aspects which are not covered by the specific legislation.

The regulation applies to products offered to consumers via all sales channels. Medicinal products, food and feed are excluded from the scope.

The regulation provides obligations for the relevant economic operators and providers of online marketplaces.



Economic operators will place or make available on the market only safe products and for assessing the safety of products the following criteria must in particular be taken into account:

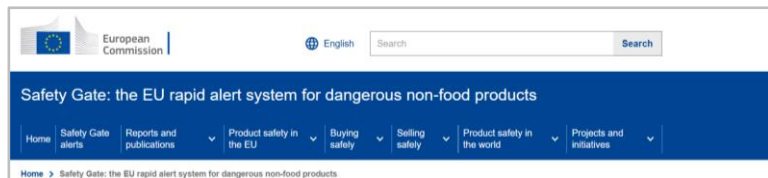
- . the characteristics of the product, such as design, technical features, composition, packaging and instructions
- . the effect on other products
- . the presentation of the product, the labelling, any warnings and safety instructions and information
- . the categories of consumers using the product
- . the appearance of the product, in particular food-imitating or child-appealing aspects
- . the cybersecurity features and any evolving, learning and predictive functionalities of the product

Manufacturers are obliged to, ensure products are safe by design, carry out an internal risk analyses and draw up relevant technical documentation, act immediately and inform consumers and national authorities through the Safety Business Gateway if they believe a product on the market is dangerous, share information on accidents, provide essential product safety and traceability information on products or their packaging, provide contact details to receive complaints, investigate them and keep an internal register of complaints received.

On food contact materials there is the Food Contact Framework Regulation (EU) No 1935/2004, which means for food packaging, the regulation only applies to those aspects which are not covered by this specific legal measure.

According to comments made in the ECMA Food Safety Committee, the relevance of this legislation seems - in general for carton product packaging - limited. The composition and safety of the packed product, the required labelling and provided safety information is the responsibility of the customer.

Similar to RASFF, there is on the safety of products the Union Rapid Information System (RAPEX). Within the customer segments of the carton sector RAPEX contains regularly chemical risk notifications in the cosmetics product category.



More short notices from the ECMA FS Com meeting 22/11

- Customers raised recently questions in relation to the presence of talcum in carton board. Talcum is used, but this is not relevant, there is no hazard classification in the ECHA database.

- It is important to ask the own ink suppliers if the used substances in the delivered inks are present on the German Printing Ink Ordinance list. There is just one year left !

In January 2026 the ordinance will be fully in place (pigments + 1 year) and it seems still 150 substances are not yet approved. In case unlisted substances are in the recipes, who will enter the dossiers, has an expression of interest been submitted? Will recipes be modified?

- In follow up to the public statement on the French MO measure on inks (See FC update 15/10) ECMA has been in regular contact with the French Authorities and EuPIA. Certain well informed French sources were indicating that it would be sufficient to obtain from the ink suppliers the confirmation, the ink is not containing intentionally used MOSH and MOAH. This has however not been confirmed by the authorities. From there side was stated they are discussing with the mineral oil sector (manufacturers and users) to find an acceptable solution by the January 2025 deadline...

- An additional comprehensive mineral oil statement has been circulated by the German food industry and German Authorities (ABL), co-signed by Sieglinde Stahle and Rudiger Helling, well covering once more the EFSA opinions and the SCoPAFF limits. This initiative may be seen as an additional warning towards the food manufacturers. (Statement available on demand)

The very latest information (17/12) from the French Authorities, is that no agreement was reached, which means the existing texts have not changed. The MO sector has been advised to table amendments to remove the ban ... EuPIA announced they are finalising a new statement.

