

ISEGA Forschungs- und Untersuchungsgesellschaft mbH . Postfach 100565 . 63704 Aschaffenburg

ECMA - the European Carton Makers Association
Attn.: Mr. Jan Cardon
P.O. Box 85612
2508 CH The Hague
The Netherlands

Postfach 100565 . 63704 Aschaffenburg
Zeppelinstraße 3-5 . 63741 Aschaffenburg . Germany

Fon: +49 6021 4989-0 . Fax: +49 6021 4989-30
E-Mail: info@isega.de . www.isega.de

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from: Dr. Derra

Testing Conditions Finished Cartons

Dear Mr. Cardon,

With regard to your inquiry about the test conditions for finished cartons for food packaging at room temperature, we can inform you that we also carry out the examinations at 40°C. For the reasons you have already mentioned, 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. For special structures, like barrier-coated cartons, the technical specification DIN SPEC 5010:2018 can be considered, which is also used as a reference in the EuPIA migration study. This technical specification was co-written by ISEGA and will be converted into a European standard in the future. It is based on a broad data basis and represents the current state of science and technology regarding the testing conditions for migration analysis with MPPO of barrier coated papers and boards for food contact.

As given in the specification, the test condition of 10 days/40°C can be used in order to assess a food contact of up to 12 months at room temperature, whereas the test condition of 30 days/40 °C covers a food contact of up to 24 months at room temperature.

As food simulant we use MPPO as we haven't made good experience with infant milk powder which is mentioned as alternative in the ECMA statement.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Best regards

ISEGA

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suchungsgesellschaft mbH
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(Dr. Derra)