

Product Stewardship - Food Contact (updated)

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REGWATCH NETWORK - FOOD CONTACT NW

The content about food contact regulations in the EU, Korea, China, and the US was written by members of RegWatch Food Contact NW.

Food Contact NW plans to hold regular meetings twice a year to share and learn about recent updates. We are expecting you to join!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact NW at any time.

WANNA JOIN? - Contact [Sunmin.PARK](#)

FOOD CONTACT NW - Google Group [HERE](#)

FOOD CONTACT NW Shared Drive

How to use IT tool for Food contact?

- [3E Insight & News](#)
 - Regulatory texts and Expert Summary
 - Regulatory database (CAS No. List)
 - Sub-set regulatory Scopes / MyProduct Regulatory amendment notifications
- [FoodChainID - Decernis](#)
 - Food industry regulatory texts and database, Product certification, Risk assessment

Global Food contact Introduction

- Food contact materials (FCMs) include items like packaging, containers, and kitchen equipment that come into contact with food. They can be made from various materials such as plastics, rubber, paper, and metal.
- European legislation also covers materials that contact drinking water, like bottles, but excludes water supply equipment.
- The safety of FCMs is crucial because chemicals can migrate into food, so they must be evaluated to ensure human health protection.

General information on Food Contact Materials

- [EFSA](#) (European Food Safety Authority);
- [Short video](#) on "food contact materials".

Main regulatory texts and useful links per zone/country

European Union

- Framework Regulation (basic requirements for FCMs): **REGULATION (EC) No 1935/2004** of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (Consolidated Text).
The **purpose** of the Regulation is to ensure the effective functioning of the internal market for materials and articles intended to come into contact directly or indirectly with food and to secure a high level of protection of human health and the interests of consumers. It lists 17 categories for which harmonized specific measures may be adopted by the Commission on an EU level.
 - **EU Harmonized Measures** : Plastics, Ceramics, Regenerated cellulose film and Active & Intelligent materials;
 - **Not harmonized measures in the EU** : In the absence of specific EU measures, the EU countries may maintain or adopt their own national provisions on FCMs. The Council of Europe has also published [some recommendations](#).
- [EU summary sheet](#) on food contact materials for packaging;
- [EU Reference Laboratories](#) for Food Contact Materials;
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2023/2006** of 22 December 2006 on good manufacturing practice (GMP) for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food ([Consolidated Text](#)): The materials must be manufactured in compliance with GMP, so that any potential transfer to foods does not raise safety concerns, change the composition of the food in an unacceptable way or have adverse effects on the taste and/or odor of foods;
- [EU summary sheet](#) on GMP;
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 10/2011** of 14 January 2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food ([Consolidated Text](#)): Specific requirements on substances and general restrictions on plastic materials and articles are set out. Only the substances included in the Union list of authorized substances (**Annex I**) may be intentionally used for the manufacture of plastic layers in plastic materials and articles. According to **Article 9** these substances shall be subject to specific migration limit, overall migration limit, restrictions and specifications as set out in Annex I;
- [EU summary sheet](#) on plastic materials and articles in contact with food;
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 282/2008** of 27 March 2008 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods ([Consolidated Text](#));
- **COUNCIL DIRECTIVE** of 15 October 1984 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs (84/500/EEC) ([Consolidated Text](#));
- **COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 450/2009** of 29 May 2009 on active and intelligent materials and articles intended to come into contact with food ([No consolidated text yet](#));
- Some recommendations of the Council of Europe related to food contact materials:
 - [Silicons used for food contact applications](#) ;
 - [Rubber products intended to come into contact with foodstuffs](#) ;
 - [Paper and board materials and articles](#) intended to come into contact with foodstuffs;
 - [Coatings intended to come into contact with foodstuffs](#) ;
 - [Aids to polymerization](#) (technological coadjuvants) for plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuff;

- [Cork stoppers and other cork materials and articles](#) intended to come into contact with foodstuffs:

Germany

The **Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR)** has drawn up recommendations for a number of food contact materials and articles that have not yet been specifically regulated by law, for example for paper and board, rubber or silicone. The BfR Recommendations are not legal provisions. However, they do represent the current state of the scientific and technical knowledge for the conditions under which consumer goods made of materials such as silicons, paper and rubber meet the requirements of **Art. 31 (1) of the German Food, Commodities and Feed Code** (Lebensmittel-, Bedarfsgegenstände- und Futtermittelgesetzbuch, LFGB) as well as those of **Art. 3(1)a of the Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004** in respect to their health safety. BfR publishes updated recommendations in the “Database BfR Recommendations on Food Contact Materials”.

Useful Links

- Website of the [German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment \(BfR\)](#) on Health assessment of food contact materials;
- [BfR Recommendations](#) on Food Contact Materials;
- [Database BfR Recommendations](#) on Food Contact Materials, [link #2](#) .
- [BfR-Recommendation XXXVI](#) . Paper and board for food contact;

Switzerland

- [“Ordonnance” of the Federal Department of Home Affairs \(DFI\)](#) on materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.

Brazil

- Relevant regulations can be found in RegBase:
Search in the [Sinequa](#) for REGWATCH search engine (click [here](#)) with the following criteria:
Country = **Brazil**, Topic = **PRODUCTS > Food and Feed applications > Food Contact**,
Document type = Abstracts

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