



# PACKALL

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European alliance for innovation training  
& collaboration towards future packaging

## Linking **Academy** to **Industry**.

**Training program: New materials and biomaterials**

**Plastic packaging in the context of development of new  
materials and biobased materials technology**

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# **Module: Plastic packaging in the context of development of new materials and biobased materials technology**

## **Topic: Food packaging materials – legal requirements, properties of materials and their influence on the used for packaging purposes**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. Introduction
2. Definition of food contact materials
3. Legal Acts concerning food contact materials
4. Safety of packaging
5. Plastic materials migration

## 1. Introduction

The safety of products offered on the market is particularly important, hence this topic finds its place in the legal requirements in force in many countries.

The packaging, which is an integral part of the product, has a huge impact on maintaining its safety and quality, but can also be a source of danger for the packed product, and thus for its user.



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# Food contact materials

materials and articles, including active and intelligent food contact materials and articles, (hereinafter referred to as materials and articles) which in their finished state:

are intended to be brought into contact with food;

or

are already in contact with food and were intended for that purpose;

or

can reasonably be expected to be brought into contact with food or to transfer their constituents to food under normal or foreseeable conditions of use.

# Basic legal regulations

- Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and repealing Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 2023/2006 of 22 December 2006 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food
- Commission Regulation (EC) No 450/2009 of 29 May 2009 on active and intelligent materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

# Legal regulations concerning plastics

- Commission Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 of 14 January 2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into 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 and amending Regulation (EC) No 2023/2006

# General safety requirements

Materials shall be manufactured in compliance with good manufacturing practice so that, under normal or foreseeable conditions of use, they do not transfer their constituents to food in quantities which could:

endanger human health;

or

bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the food;

or

bring about a deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics thereof.

The labelling, advertising and presentation of a material or article shall not mislead the consumers.

# Good Manufacturing Practice GMP

means those aspects of quality assurance which ensure that materials and articles are consistently produced and controlled to ensure conformity with the rules applicable to them and with the quality standards appropriate to their intended use by not endangering human health or causing an unacceptable change in the composition of the food or causing a deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics thereof.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 2023/2006 of 22 December 2006 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food



# Specific measures for groups of materials and articles

Those specific measures may include:

- a list of substances authorised for use in the manufacturing of materials and articles;
- purity standards for substances referred to in;
- special conditions of use for substances referred to in (a) and/or the materials and articles in which they are used;
- specific limits on the migration of certain constituents or groups of constituents into or on to food, taking due account of other possible sources of exposure to those constituents;
- an overall limit on the migration of constituents into or on to food;
- provisions aimed at protecting human health against hazards arising from oral contact with materials and articles;
- specific provisions for ensuring the traceability.

# Traceability

- Business operators shall have in place systems and procedures to allow identification of the businesses from which and to which materials or articles and, where appropriate, substances or products used in their manufacture are supplied.
- That information shall be made available to the competent authorities on demand.
- The traceability of materials and articles shall be ensured at all stages in order to facilitate control, the recall of defective products, consumer information and the attribution of responsibility.

# Declaration of compliance

- Materials and articles should be accompanied by a written declaration stating that they comply with the rules applicable to them.
- Appropriate documentation shall be available to demonstrate such compliance.

# Labelling

Materials and articles, which are not yet in contact with food when placed on the market, shall be accompanied by:

- the words ‘for food contact’, or a specific indication as to their use, such as coffee machine, wine bottle, soup spoon, or the symbol
- if necessary, special instructions to be observed for safe and appropriate use;
- the name or trade name and, in either case, the address or registered office of the manufacturer, processor, or seller responsible for placing on the market established within the Community;
- adequate labelling or identification to ensure traceability of the material or article;
- in the case of active materials and articles, information on the permitted use or uses and other relevant information such as the name and quantity of the substances released by the active component so as to enable food business operators who use these materials and articles to comply with any other relevant Community provisions or, in their absence, national provisions applicable to food, including the provisions on food labelling.

# Food contact materials symbol





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