

FoodContact

Industry Guideline

for the Compliance of
Paper & Board Materials and
Articles for Food Contact



Summary of the Industry Guideline

for the Compliance of Paper and Board Material and Articles for Food Contact

Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, calls for the European Commission to propose “specific measures” to cover individual materials. These measures should offer detailed advice, however, there is no such measure for paper and board.

The lack of a specific set of measures creates a disadvantage in the market because paper and board materials and articles appear to be “unregulated”. This leads to a general, but unfair, perception that they are “unsafe”.

The Industry Guideline is a voluntary self-regulation by the industry and its customers to provide consumer assurance and rational responses to food alerts.

- Drafted with several extensive consultations involving national and EU authorities and customers.
- The Industry Guideline can be quickly modified in the light of scientific advances.
- Its emphasis is on final product testing and good manufacturing practice.
- It is voluntary and can be used for self-certification.
- For the first time, it consolidates all the components needed to facilitate compliance with EU Law.
- It is tailored to the specific requirements of the paper and board industry, enhances the responsible nature of the industry.

PIRA International, an independent specialist institute, found in their very positive peer review that “the industry guideline offers a good model to demonstrate compliance with the requirements” of EU regulation.

The Industry Guideline enables compliance with the EU Regulation No 1935/2004, has similarities to a legislative “specific measure” but does not replace national specific paper and board measures if and when these exist at national level.

The Industry Guideline successfully draws together the best parts of existing legislation including some key improvements:

- Clarified rules on recycling and purity of recycled fibres
- Clear template for a Declaration of Compliance
- Improved rules for multilayer materials

The Industry Guideline is more complete than any existing measure.



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