

EU Regulation for Materials in Contact with Food

The new EU Regulation on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, No 1935/2004 of 27 October 2004, replaces the two EU Directives 80/590/EEC and 89/109/EEC.

The general requirements for materials and articles stated in Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 are similar to those in 89/109/EEC:

- Should comply with Good Manufacturing Practice
- Should not:
 - Transfer their constituents to food that could endanger human health.
 - Bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of food
 - Bring about deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics of food

The new Regulation defines some specific requirements for "active" and "intelligent" materials used in food contact products:

"Active" materials

- Refer to materials designed to release or absorb substances into or from packaged food to maintain or improve the condition of the packaged food
- Shall not mislead consumers about the conditions of food by changing the composition or organoleptic characteristics of food.

"Intelligent" materials

- Refer to materials designed to monitor the condition of the packaged food
- Shall not provide consumers with misleading information about the conditions of food.

Should any new substances be used in the manufacturing of materials and articles intended for contact with food, application for registration and authorization is imperative. The following information is a pre-requisite for this registration:

- identity of the substances
- physical, chemical properties
- intended use of the substances
- microbiological properties
- authorization (or recognition of the substances)
- migration data in contact with foodstuff
- residual content of the substances
- toxicological data



Moreover, the information of the materials and articles should be traceable at all stages such as manufacturing, processing, and distribution and appropriate documents should be available upon request. **This requirement will be enforced from 27 October 2006.**

Products which have complied with food grade safety, but have not yet come into contact with food when sold, shall be properly labeled. They shall be accompanied with:

- A word "for food contact", a specific indication of their use or the "glass and fork" symbol (see above). This has been well defined in 80/590/EEC Directive
- The name or trade name and the address or registered office of the party that is responsible for placing the materials or articles on the market
- Special instructions and precautions on how to use the final product if necessary. .
- Adequate labeling for traceability

歐盟對與食物接觸物品的新管制

歐盟最新頒定針對與食物接觸物品的新管制「Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of 27 October 2004」此法規已取代歐盟過往訂下的兩項指令，80/590/EEC 及 89/109/EEC。

Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 列明對有關物品的一般要求與89/109/EEC 相若。物品需要符合以下條件：

- 必須符合良好製造規範(Good Manufacturing Practice)
- 當產品接觸食物時, 不可:
 - 釋出對人類健康構成危險的成份
 - 導致食物的成份的有不能接受的改變
 - 減低食物所帶來的感官特性

新的管制列明與食物接觸產品所含「有效」("active") 及「智能」("intelligent") 材料的特定要求：

「有效」材料

- 指用於釋放或吸收經包裝食物物質的材料，以維持或改善經包裝食品的品質
- 不可改變食物的組成份或官感特性以致誤導用家有關食物的狀態

「智能」材料

- 指用於監察經包裝食物狀態的材料
- 不可提供會誤導用家有關食物狀態的資料

任何擬於生產與食物接觸物品的新物料，必須於事前向歐盟有關當局註冊及申請批核使用。以下是申請註冊時所需的資料：

- 物料的本質
- 物理及化學特性
- 物料的用途
- 微生物學上的特性
- 物料的認可性
- 與食物接觸時物料釋出的資料
- 物料殘餘的份量
- 毒性的數據



如有需要，所有有關物品資料的文件包括生產、製作及分銷，必須可供呈交作核實。此要求將於2006年10月27日正式生效。

已符合食物安全指引但於銷售期間並沒有與食物接觸的產品，需有清楚的標籤。產品必須附上：

- 用於食物接觸」的字眼；或有指明其用途的字句；或「杯及叉」的標誌(如上圖)。此等指引已於80/590/EEC 指令清楚列明
- 產品名稱或商業名稱及地址或負責分銷該產品的註冊公司地址
- 在有需要時，列明特定的使用指引及預防措施
- 足夠的資料以供追蹤物品來源之用
- 使用「有效」材料的資料