

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

HARDGOODS

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TAIWAN: UPDATE FOR FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS AND ARTICLES

In April 2013, Taiwan announced the prohibition of bisphenol A (BPA) in baby bottles. Under the new law, BPA is prohibited in baby bottles manufactured in or imported into Taiwan from 1 September 2013. From 1 March 2014, BPA is prohibited in all baby bottles on the market.

On 10 June 2013, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) announced the 'Reusable food containers for plastic plate, bowl and dish' according to the Act Governing Food Sanitation Article 18.

The announcement specifies that food plastic utensils shall be marked with the following:

- Product name
- Product material
- Heat resistance temperature
- Country of origin
- Weight, volume, quantity or measure
- Date of manufacture
- Indication on the usage in microwaves and other warnings
- Company name, telephone number and address

From the list of markings, the product material and the heat resistance temperature shall be printed or embossed on the article.

Highlights of this announcement, including earlier announcements under items 1 and 2, are summarised in Table 1.

In August 2013, the Taiwan Department of Health issued a comprehensive revision of its Sanitation Standards for Food Utensils, Containers and Packages.

Item	Product Category	Labelling	Announcement Date	Implementation Date
1 ¹	Disposable food plastic utensils, containers and packaging	Printing, embossing or labelling on unit package or articles	21 July 2011	21 July 2013
2 ²	Reusable plastic bottles (mug cup), baby bottles, lunch boxes (including containers)	Shall be directly printed or embossed on articles	21 July 2011	21 July 2012
3 ³	Reusable plastic plates, bowls and dishes		10 June 2013	10 June 2014

¹ [SafeGuards 71/13](#)

² [TFDA website](#) (Traditional Chinese only)

During August –September 2013, the TFDA announced a set of draft revisions to its ‘Methods of Test for Food Utensils, Containers and Packages – Test of Plastic Products’. The new draft revisions are essential to meet Article 6 of the new standards under the Sanitation Standards for Food Utensils, Containers and Packages. The draft test methods would essentially update the experimental procedures and techniques, including detection limits. One notable revision is the expansion of the phthalates from DBP and DEHP to the inclusion of BBP, DIDP, DINP and DMP.

The food contact materials and articles under these draft test methods are

- Metal cans
- Plastics
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
- Polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC)

The notices are open to a 20-day public consultation.

³ <http://www.fda.gov.tw/TC/newsContent.aspx?id=9899&chk=8ee2febd-66ce-4902-99d8-d5e3a9f5e12d¶m=pn%3d18%26cid%3d3%26cchk%3d46552e96-810a-42c3-83e1-bd5e42344633> (Traditional Chinese only)

⁴ [Sanitation Standard for Food Utensils, Containers and Packages](#)

⁵ [Notice of draft amendment "food utensils, containers, packaging test methods – Test of metal can"](#)

[Notice of draft amendment "food utensils, containers, packaging test methods – Test of plastic"](#)

[Notice of draft amendment "food utensils, containers, packaging test methods – Test of polyvinyl chloride"](#)

[Notice of draft amendment "food utensils, containers, packaging test methods – Test of polyvinylidene chloride"](#)



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