

GERMAN BFR ISSUES WARNING ON FOOD CONTACT MELAMINE PRODUCTS

In May 2011, the German Institute for Risk Assessment (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung, BFR) published an article indicating that food contact melamine products such as plates, dishes and other kitchen utensils can release melamine and formaldehyde when heated at high temperatures¹. According to the publication, studies by the BFR and authorities revealed that the migration of formaldehyde and melamine clearly exceeded regulatory levels when such products were used for frying, cooking and at temperatures for microwaves. There were no health concerns if such articles were used at temperatures below 70 °C. From these findings, the BFR recommends consumers not to use crockery and kitchen utensils manufactured from melamine to be used for frying, cooking and heating foods in microwaves. Highlights of the findings from the German BFR are summarised in Table 1.

SUBSTANCE	SCOPE	REQUIREMENT	REGULATION
Melamine	Melamine food Contact Plastics eg crockery and kitchen utensils	≤ 30 mg/kg (migration)	Regulation (EU) 10/2011 ²
Formaldehyde		≤ 15 mg/kg (migration)	

TABLE 1

The importation of melamine kitchenware from Hong Kong and China into the European Union is also governed by Regulation (EU) 284/2011³. Under this new law, a declaration demonstrating that such articles meet the specific migration limit for formaldehyde is an obligation.

¹ [Cooking spoons and crockery made of melamine resin are not suited for microwaves and cooking, Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung \(BFR\), 11/2011, 12 May 2011,](#)

² [SafeGuards 017/11](#) and references therein

³ [SafeGuards 064/11](#) and references therein

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