

FOOD CONTACT LEGISLATION AND MIGRATION

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The Department of Food, Environmental and Nutritional Sciences, Università degli Studi di Milano



University of Milan: facts and figures



The Department of Food, Environmental and Nutritional Sciences



5 Divisions belong to the Department:



DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL AND NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES FOOD Technology Division



An Operative Unit devoted to food packaging (the PackLab) has been established in our University since 1985.

PackLab is the only unit in the University of Milan engaged in research, teaching and testing in the Food Packaging field.



Food Contact Materials, FCM





SAFETY of FCM

Food Contact Materials

MIGRATION

Transfer of substances from the

PACKAGE to the FOOD

MATERIAL 1

ADHESIVE

MATERIAL 2





A RISK for the CONSUMER



Food Contact Materials

Materials and articles, including active and intelligent materials and articles, 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:

- (a) endanger human health; or
- (b) bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the food; or
- (c) bring about a deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics thereof.

Art.3 Reg. EC 1935/2004





MIGRATABLE SUBSTANCES

MECHANISMS of MIGRATION

WHAT THE LEGISLATION SAYS

HOW to MEASURE MIGRATION

WHAT ABOUT ACTIVE PACKAGING

FCM

INTENTIONALLY ADDED SUBSTANCE -IAS



Monomers and catalysts, aids to polymerization (in PLASTICS)



Additives and coadjuvants (antioxidants, lubrificants, dyes, fillers, etc)



Inks, adhesives, etc.



NON INTENTIONALLY ADDED SUBSTANCES-NIAS



Reactions and degradation products



Impurities of the raw materials



Contaminants

IAS e NIAS are always present in the FCM and they can POTENTIALLY MIGRATE into FOODS



Why IAS e NIAS can migrate?

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The MEDIUM i.e. synthetic and natural polymers

- Heterogeneous media, with «large» free volume
- Thermal motion of chain segments



IAS and NIAS

- Free molecules, not covalently bonded
- Molecules of «small» dimensions with respect to the media (molecular mass lower than1000 Da)
- Chemical nature different from the media



MIGRATION is defined as *«the mass transfer from an external source into food by sub-microscopic processes»*



PHENOMENAL DESCRIPTION of MIGRATION

MIGRATION through the GAS PHASE

ENVIRONMENT



VOLATILE MIGRANT

MECHANISM

Diffusion
 Desorption at the interface
 Adsorption onto the food

Volatile substances, with high vapor tension, can migrate without enter in direct contact with the food. They can also be dispersed in the environment



Lee, DS. et al. 2008

Plastics, paper....

PHENOMENAL DESCRIPTION of MIGRATION

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• VOLATILE MIGRANT

MECHANISM

1.Diffusion2.Desorption at the interface3.Adsorption onto the food

Volatile substances, with high vapor tension, can migrate without enter in direct contact with the food. They can also be dispersed in the environment

RATE of DIFFUSION into the MATERIAL
 MIGRANT CHEMICAL AFFINITY with the FOOD
 TEMPERATURE





NON volatile MIGRANTS diffuse into the FOOD only after a DIRECT CONTACT

- A The migrant has a high diffusion coefficient in the material and is readily dissolved into the contacting food phase
- **B** The migrant is of **low diffusion** in the material at the initial contact with food. It attains high diffusion coefficient only after some food components has been adsorbed and diffused into the film (SWELLING): **dual-mode interaction**

FOOD-CONTACT

- Nature and composition of the material, migrant and the food
- Contact surface
- Time of contact
- Temperature of contact
- Turbolences



NON volatile MIGRANTS diffuse into the FOOD only after a DIRECT CONTACT

① Diffusion of migrant in package wall toward package/food interface.

Frequently this is the slowest or rate-determining step of migration. In a **dual interactive mode**, concurrent penetration of solvent or food ingredient may change the package wall structure to swollen state increasing the mobility of migrant.



② Dissolution of migrant at package/food interface.

The dissolution depends on the affinity of migrant to the package phase and food phase.

③ Dispersion or diffusion of migrant into food.

The migrant will then disperse into liquid foods or diffuse into solid foods.

Lee, DS. et al. 2008. Food Packaging Science and Technology



- Additive in film Cp, (mg/kg_{polymer})
- Additive in food Cf (mg/kg_{food})

Dp=coefficient of diffusion of the additive in the polymer (m² s⁻¹) **Df**= coefficient of diffusion of the additive (m² s⁻¹) **Kp,f**= coefficiente di ripartizione dell'additivo tra polimero e alimento (Cp ∞ /Cf ∞)



J= diffusion flux (mg m⁻² s⁻²) Dp=coefficient of diffusion of the additive in the polymer (m² s⁻¹) C= migrant concentration (mg m⁻³) x= distance in the packaging layer

$$\frac{\partial C_{x,t}}{\partial t} = Dp \frac{\partial C}{\partial x^2}$$

Fick's II law: Monodirectional diffusion in a nonsteady state: The flux changes in the space and the concentration profile during time



The extent of migration depends on several variables :

Nature and composition of both the material and the substances
 Nature and composition of the food

- Contact surface
- •Time of contact
- •Temperature of contact

....

The rules act on these factors:

•checking the COMPOSITION of the FCM Toxicologcal evaluation = hazard reduction (ex. List of additives...)

•restricting the PERMITTED USES Migration monitoring= exposure reduction (ex. LMS)

> Milana, 16 dicembre 2008 Normativa sui materiali e oggetti in contatto con alimenti Principi di base nazionali e comunitari



WHAT LEGISLATION SAYS ABOUT MIGRATION

Which are the fundamentals?

......Why is the legislation so important also for a scientist?



... the European legislation



NATIONAL RULES

Food Contact Materials

Materials and articles, including active and intelligent materials and articles, 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:

- (a) endanger human health; or
- (b) bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the food; or
- (c) bring about a deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics thereof.

Art.3 Reg. EC 1935/2004



Art.3 Reg. EC 1935/2004



PLASTIC MATERIALS Reg 10/2011 Reg 1416/2016







FCM

MIGRATION in PLASTIC

Reg EU 10/2011- Reg 1416/2016



4 criteria (all must be met!!)

(a) monomers or other starting substances;

(b) additives excluding colorants;

(c) polymer production aids excluding solvents;

(d) macromolecules obtained from microbial fermentation.

Only the substances included in the Union list of authorized substances (Annex I+ amendments) may be intentionally used in the manufacture of plastic layers in plastic materials and articles.

NIAS

.....with restrictions......

MIGRATION

Application helpdesk ..authorization for new substances



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The application procedure is described in Regulation EC

1935/2004.

The **technical dossier** of an application submitted under Regulation EC 1935/2004 must be compiled according to EFSA's guidance.

Applications should be submitted to the national competent authority of a Member State, which will transmit your application to EFSA

MIGRATION

NIAS (i.e. degradation products)



Active polymer (absorbing system)



The polymer **reacts** with residual O2 present in the package



The degradation products of the polymer can **migrate into food**



The degradation products of the polymer can migrate into food

CCM Conference, Bonn 3 June 2008

THE NEED FOR A RISK ASSESSEMENT AS REQUESTED BY REGULATION



In principle, non-intentionally added substances will have to comply with the general safety requirements of Article 3 of the Framework Regulation and are subject to risk assessment





OVERALL MIGRATION LIMIT:



OVERALL MIGRATION

Maximum amount of non-volatile substances that can be released by a packaging material into foods or simulants



Food contact surface area is 6 dm2 per kg food

Migration of 60 mg from 6 dm² INTO 1 dm³ of FOOD VOLUME= 1kg of FOOD MASS (assuming the food density equal to 1)

60 mg/kg food

OVERALL MIGRATION LIMIT:

MIGRATION

 10 mg/dm^2 = 60 mg/kg food

(for packaging dedicated to INFANT FOODS)



Art.3 Reg. EC 1935/2004

Side		Cube Surface	Cube Volume	S/V
	(dm)	(dm²)	(dm ³)	
	1	6	1	6
	10	600	1000	0.6
	0.5	1.5	0.125	12

OVERALL MIGRATION LIMIT: 10 mg/dm^2 = 60 mg/kg food (for packaging dedicated to INFANT FOODS) For **small packaging** where the surface to volume ratio is higher the resulting migration into food is higher For infants and small children which have a higher consumption of food per

<u>kilogram bodyweight</u> than adults and do not yet have a diversified nutrition, special provisions should be set in order to limit the intake of substances migrating from food contact materials



Reg EU 10/2011- Reg 1416/2016



SPECIFIC MIGRATION LIMITS:

FOR PLASTICS Union list Reg EU 10/2011 + amendments Reg EU 1416/2016

mg/kg food

SPECIFIC MIGRATION

maximum permitted amount of **a given substance** released from a material or article into food or food simulants



SPECIFIC MIGRATION

The SML is based on the safety evaluation of the substances by EFSA taking into account information on the toxicity and the migration behaviour of the substance provided by the applicant.



For setting the SML, it is conventionally assumed that **1kg** of food containing **the substance** is consumed **daily** by a person with **60 kg bodyweight**. It is assumed that the **1kg of food** is in contact with a plastic food contact material **releasing the substance at the SML**. It is further assumed that the **food contact surface area** is **6 dm2 per kg food**.





Additives

Solvents from printing inks

Solvents from adhesives

NIAS.....

Evaluation of eventual deterioration in the organoleptic characteristics of foods in contact with packaging materials

HOW TO MEASURE MIGRATION and SENSORIAL INERTNESS?

In order to achieve **comparable results** in the verification of compliance with the migration limits, testing should be performed under standardized test conditions including testing **time, temperature** and test medium (**food simulant**) representing **worst foreseeable conditions of use** of the plastic material or article.



HOW TO MEASURE MIGRATION?

1. TEST MEDIUM: SIMULANTSor FOODS

- □ Simulant should represent the <u>major physico-chemical properties</u> exhibited by food.
- Simulant means a test medium <u>imitating food</u>; in its behaviour the food simulant <u>mimics migration</u> from food contact materials
- ❑ The results of <u>specific migration testing obtained in food</u> shall prevail over the results obtained in <u>food simulant</u>. The results of specific migration testing obtained in food simulant shall prevail over the results obtained by screening approaches.

Table 1

List of food simulants

	Food simulant	Abbreviation		
Ethanol 10 % (v/v)		Food simulant A	Food simulants A , B and C are	
Acetic acid 3 % (w/v)		Food simulant B	hydrophilic character and are	
	Food simulant		^{At} substances	
Ethanol 20 % (v/v)		Food simulant C	Food simulant B shall be used	
Ethanol 50 % (v/v)		Food simulant D1	for those foods which have a pH below 4.5.	
Any vegetable oil containing less than 1 % unsaponifiable matter		Food simulant D2	Food simulant C shall be used for alcoholic foods with an	
poly(2,6-diphenyl-p-pl 80 mesh, pore size 20	nenylene oxide), particle size 60- 0 nm	Food simulant E'	and those foods which contain a relevant amount of	
			organic ingredients that render the food more lipophilic.	

Food simulant	
Ethanol 50 % (v/v)	Food simulant D1
Any vegetable oil containing less than 1 % unsaponifiable matter	Food simulant D2
poly(2,6-diphenyl-p-phenylene oxide), particle size 60- 80 mesh, pore size 200 nm	Food simulant E'

Food simulants D1 and D2

are assigned for foods that
 have a lipophilic character
 and are able to extract
 lipophilic substances.

Food simulant D1 shall be used for alcoholic foods with an alcohol content of above
20 % and for oil in water emulsions.

 Food simulant D2 shall be used for foods which contain free fats at the surface.

Food simulant E is assigned for testing <u>specific migration</u> into **dry foods**.

SIMULANT D1 SIMULANT B

SIMULANT A



SIMULANT E

SIMULANT D2

Testing in several different food simulants **provides no added** value if it is scientifically evident that <u>one food simulant always yields the</u> <u>highest migration results for a specific substance or material</u> and this food simulant can therefore be considered as the <u>most severe</u> for such a substance or material.

Annex III in 10/2011 and derogation in 1416/2016 can help us in the right choice (for materials that are not yet in contact with foods)

Column 1: reference number of the food category

Column 2: contains a description of the foods covered by the food category

Column 3: contains sub-columns for each of the food simulants

(1)	(2)	(3)					
Reference	Description of food	Food simulants					
number		Α	В	С	D1	D2	E
	B. cloudy drinks: juices and nectars and soft drinks containing fruit pulp, musts containing fruit pulp, liquid chocolate		X(*)		х		
01.02	Alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength of between 6 %vol and 20 %.			х			
01.03	Alcoholic beverages of an alcoholic strength above 20% and all cream liquors				х		

for the whole Table see Reg 10/2011 and Reg 1416/2016)



2. WHICH CONDITIONS of TIME and TEMPERATURE?

Time to be selected for testing

Selection of test temperature



The increase in TEMPERATURE can increase the rate and the amount of migration



Mapping of the surface temperature of LDPE film used to pack fatty dough during **four minute microwave heating** and subsequent predicted migration into food of Uvitex OB initially present in the packaging (Gontard et al., 2010)





OVERALL MIGRATION

Standardised conditions for testing the overall migration (for the whole Table see Table 3, Reg 1416/2016)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3		
Test number	Contact time in days [d] or hours [h] at contact temperature in [°C] for testing	Intended food contact conditions		
OM1	10 d at 20 °C	Any food contact at frozen and refrigerated conditions.		
OM2	10 d at 40 °C	Any long term storage at room temperature or below, includ- ing when packaged under hot-fill conditions, and/or heating		
10d at 40°C		mum of t = $120/2^{(T-70)/10}$ minutes.		
OM3	2 h at 70 °C	Any food contact conditions that include hot-fill and/or heat- ing up to a temperature T where 70 °C \leq T \leq 100 °C for max- imum of t = 120/2^((T-70)/10) minutes, which are not fol- lowed by long term room temperature or refrigerated storage.		
OM5	2 h at 100 °C or at reflux or alter- natively 1 h at 121 °C	High temperature applications up to 121 °C.		
OM6	4 h at 100 °C or at reflux	Any food contact conditions at a temperature exceeding 40 °C, and with foods for which point 4 of Annex III assigns simulants A, B, C or D1.		

SPECIFIC MIGRATION

Selection of test time (Table 1, Reg 10/2011)

Contact time in worst foreseeable use	Time to be selected for testin	
$t \le 5 \min$	5 min	
5 min $\leq t \leq 0,5$ hour	0,5 hour	
0,5 hours $\leq t \leq 1$ hour	1 hour	
1 hour $\leq t \leq 2$ hours	2 hours	
2 hours $\leq t \leq 6$ hours	6 hours	
6 hours $\leq t \leq 24$ hours	24 hours	
$1 \ day \le t \le 3 \ days$	3 days	
3 days $< t \le 30$ days	10 days	
Above 30 days	See specific conditions	

SPECIFIC MIGRATION

Selection of TEMPERATURE (Table 2, Reg 1416/2016)

Worst foreseeable contact temperature	Contact temperature to be selected for testing		
T ≤ 5 °C	5 °C		
5 °C < T ≤ 20 °C	20 °C		

....

70 °C < T ≤ 100 °C	100 °C or reflux temperature
100 °C < T ≤ 121 °C	121 °C (*)
121 °C < T ≤ 130 °C	130 °C (*)
130 °C < T ≤ 150 °C	150 °C (*)
150 °C < T < 175 °C	175 °C (*)
175 °C < T ≤ 200 °C	200 °C (*)
T > 200 °C	225 °C (*)

(*) This temperature shall be used only for food simulants D2 and E. For applications heated under pressure, migration testing under pressure at the relevant temperature may be performed. For food simulants A, B, C or D1 the test may be replaced by a test at 100 °C or at reflux temperature for duration of four times the time selected according to the conditions in Table 1.'

Standards for FCM Testing

Standard EN 1186 series for overall migration Standard EN or CEN/TS 13130 for specific migration



OVERALL and SPECIFIC MIGRATION in THE LAB.....





 No harmonized standardisation except for gas phase transfer form paper and board (EN 1230)

– German Standard DIN 10955 for sensory testing of FCM

is not harmonized

• is a guide but leaves questions to testing conditions on specific materials open

... THE SAME FOR THE ITALIAN STANDARD UNI 10192:2001

Sensorial inertness IN THE LAB.....



• In consequence:

□ uncertainty for testing labs

problems may occur in export to other EU member states

□ non co-ordinated working groups on this topic

T.J. Simat, TU-Dresden, Workshop on Sensory Testing Ispra, 29th Nov. 2011



If All the 4 criteria meet the Regulation



WHAT ABOUT ACTIVE PACKAGING???

HOW CAN WE CONSIDER THEIR SAFETY AS FCM?

A well-known definition....

 'active materials and articles' means materials and articles that are intended to extend the shelf-life or to maintain or improve the condition of packaged food

 they are designed to deliberately incorporate components that would release or absorb substances into or from the packaged food or the environment surrounding the food

• (EU Reg. 450/2009)



If the GOAL is the **SHELF LIFE EXTENTION**, an ACTIVE SOLUTION SHOULD ACT REDUCING THE RATE OF THE **MAIN FOOD DECAY EVENT**

..BUT it is not enough

Safety first!!!

ACTIVE PACKAGING SOLUTIONS ARE CONSIDERED AS FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS....thus...

THEY SHALL ONLY BE AUTHORIZED IF IT IS DEMONSTRATED THEY DO NOT PRESENT RISKS TO HUMAN HEALTH (article 8, Reg 1935/2004)



... the European legislation



NATIONAL RULES

...Safety first...

L 338/4	L 338/4 EN Official Journal of the European Union 13.11.2004 REGULATION (EC) No 1935/2004 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 27 October 2004 of 27 October 2004 000000000000000000000000000000000000						
FRAMEWORK REGULATION VALID FOR ALL THE FOOD CONTACT EC 1935/2004 MATERIALS & ARTICLES ACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT PACKAGING ARE INCLUDED IN ITS FIELD OF APPLICATION. In 2009 a SPECIFIC MEASURE (Reg EC 450/2009) was adopted							
30.5.2009	EN on active and i	Official Journal COMMISSION REGU of 29 intelligent materials and an (Text wit	of the European Union JLATION (EC) No 450/2009 9 May 2009 rticles intended to come into contact th EEA relevance)	L 135/3 Reest	c 45012009		

Legal requirements

Regulation (EC) No 450/2009 is a specific measure that lays down specific rules for active and intelligent materials and articles to be applied in addition to the general requirements established in Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 for their safe use.

The substance(s) responsible for the active and/or intelligent function of the material



under the regulation (EC) No 450/2009.



Only substances which are included in the 'Community list' of authorized substances may be used in components of active and intelligent materials and articles.

Is there a contradiction?

TRADITIONAL PACKAGING:

ACTIVE PACKAGING:

Migration of ADDITIVES: REDUCED

Migration OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCES: ENHANCED





A right distinction....for the purpose of safety

PASSIVE part

Means all material(s) and article(s) **into which** the active component is added or incorporated (such as the primary packaging material into which it is incorporated). ACTIVE substance Means individual substance or а combination of individual substances which cause the active function of a material or article, including the products of in situ reaction of these substances.



O2 SCAVENGER IN A SACHET



PLASTIC FILM (i.e. multilayer, monolayer...)

PASSIVE part

The safety must be complied with the European and/or national provisions on the basis of the nature of the material itself (i.e. plastic, paper, ink, adhesive etc.).

O2 SCAVENGER IN A SACHET



POWDER

ACTIVE part ???

The substances included in the powder formulation that are directly involved in the absorbing reaction should be considered as components that **cannot be necessarily considered as "active part".**

The main active ingredients

iron which reacts with oxygen to form iron hydroxide and iron oxide

water and sodium chloride

Other **ingredients:** silica gel, activated carbon, monosodium glutamate, potassium acid tartrate, powdered cellulose, malic acid, chabazite,

All ingredients have been evaluated and approved for use as additives in plastic food contact materials, as food additives or food supplements.

O2 SCAVENGER IN A SACHET



POWDER

ACTIVE part ???

The substances included in the powder formulation that are directly involved in the absorbing reaction should be considered as components that **cannot be necessarily considered as "active part".**

The main active ingredients

iron which reacts with oxygen to form iron hydroxide and iron oxide

water and sodium chloride

Other **ingredients:** silica gel, activated carbon, monosodium glutamate, potassium acid tartrate, powdered cellulose, malic acid, chabazite, As the active system is based on solid ingredients, only **MIGRATION THROUGH THE HEADSPACE IS EXPECTED**. If it no occurs and new substances are not generated, THE RISK ASSESSMENT by EFSA is not requested



ANTIMICROBIAL IN A COATING ACTIVE CONCEPT: if it's released from the material

ANTIMICROBIAL IMMOBILIZED AND INCORPORATED BY GRAFTING ACTIVE CONCEPT: If deliberately influences the conditions of food without intentional migration

Bastarrachea et al., 2015. Coatings 2015, 5, 771-791

Question: WHICH SUBSTANCES CAN BE CONSIDERED ACTIVE?

Answer: ONLY THOSE SUBSTANCES THAT HAVE A TECHNOLOGICAL EFFECT ON FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY



YES, BUT ...IN DETAIL...WHICH SUBSTANCES?? ...AND...WHICH OF THEM CAN BE EVALUATED UNDER REG EU 450/2009 FOR THE CREATION OF THE UNION LIST?

WHICH SUBSTANCES are considered ACTIVE....

ACTIVE substances that have technological effects on the food





a) PRESERVATIVES/FOOD ADDITIVES/ENZYMES
 Should be used under relevant EU or national provisions.
 Commission Regulation EC 1333/2008 + Reg 1129/2011 and Reg 1130/2011 that amend Annex II and III

Legislation on food additives, enzimes and flavouring

With applicable restrictions and conditions

New substances (new food additives or a request for an extension of use) are subject to an **authorization procedure laid down in Reg EU 234/2011**

They **will not be included** in the **UNION LIST** of active and intelligent materials and articles as they fall under the relevant EU or national provisions for their use in the food

WHICH SUBSTANCES are considered ACTIVE....

ACTIVE substances that have technological effects on the food

Example:



b) EXTRACTS (i.e extract of rosemary, nisin produced by fermentation... etc)

If the substances function as preservatives, they have to comply with the existing legislation on food additives, enzimes and flavouring

New substances (new food additives or a request for an extension of use) are subject to an **authorization procedure** laid down in Reg EU 1331/2008 and not under Reg 450/2009







WHICH SUBSTANCES are considered ACTIVE....

b) OTHER SUBSTANCES (THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR US!!!!!)

If the active function implies **INTERACTION** between different substances leading to the enhancement of the specific function (i.e. antioxidant, scavenger, etc) or the **GENERATION of new substances** responsible for that specific function, thus these substances (i.e. the **COMPLEX**) are considered as «active substances».

These substances (COMBINATION OF SUBSTANCES) are subject to authorization under Reg EU 450/2009.

This means that a **RISK ASSESSMENT** will be carried out by EFSA to support the authorization process.

After the positive opinion of EFSA and the authorization by the EU Commission, they **will be included** in the **UNION LIST** of active and intelligent materials



FINAL REMARKS

.. from LEGISLATION some suggestions to ORIENT scientific research

and VICE-VERSA

...from SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH some suggestions to SUPPORT legislation

FINAL REMARKS: open issues



DATA from SCOPUS 2005-2015





RISK ASSESSMENT

TOXICOLOGY

CONSUMER EXPOSURE

NANOFORM SUBSTANCES

NON INTENTIONALLY ADDED SUBSTANCES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

