

Ban on bisphenol A (BPA) in food packaging

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Regulation

Draft Commission Regulation on the use of bisphenol A (BPA) and other bisphenols and their derivatives with harmonised classification for specific hazardous properties in certain materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

Annex

What is changing and why?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has identified health risks from levels of bisphenol A (BPA) in food. The EU therefore plans to:

- Prohibit use of BPA in the manufacture of food contact materials including plastics, varnishes/coatings, printing inks, adhesives, ion-exchange resins, and rubbers.
- Allow exceptional use of bisphenol-A diglycidyl ether (BADGE), used in the manufacture of coatings for large containers, only for containers with a capacity >250 litres and provided any release of BADGE is minimal.
- Prohibit the use of bisphenols/bisphenol derivatives identified as hazardous for human health in food contact varnishes/coatings, printing inks, adhesives, ion-exchange resins, and rubbers except where a specific application to authorise its use has been submitted.
- Limit use of disodium salt of BPA to the manufacture of polysulphone resins for use in plastic membranes.
- Require businesses to possess a compliance declaration confirming compliance with the BPA Regulation for all relevant packaged food placed on the EU market.
- Establish transitional measures that provide manufacturers of food contact materials a period of time (18–36 months after the Regulation enters into force) to develop alternative solutions to the use of BPA in food contact materials.

The Commission aims to safeguard consumer health by minimising exposure to BPA and raising safety standards in the production of food contact materials.

Actions

All suppliers of packaged foods to the EU market (and particularly of fruit, vegetable, and fish products) are recommended to alert their packaging suppliers to the proposed EU ban of BPA, and evaluate strategies for a transition away from the use of BPA.

Timeline

Feedback on this proposal via the EU's [Have your Say](#) website closed on 8 March 2024.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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