Ban on bisphenol A (BPA) in food packaging

Published by AGRINFO on 15 Feb 2024; Revised 04 Mar 2026

Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/250 on the use of bisphenol A (BPA) and other bisphenols and bisphenol derivatives with harmonised classification for specific hazardous properties in certain materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/3190 on the use of bisphenol A (BPA) and other bisphenols and bisphenol derivatives with harmonised classification for specific hazardous properties in certain materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

What is changing and why?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has identified health risks from levels of bisphenol A (BPA) and related substances in food. The EU has therefore adopted a new Regulation that:

- bans use of BPA in the manufacture of food contact materials including plastics, varnishes/coatings, printing inks, adhesives, ion-exchange resins, and rubbers
- allows exceptional use of BPA in certain plastic film membranes and varnishes used on large tanks
- allows operators to request authorisation of other use of BPA
- requires food businesses to prove their compliance with the BPA Regulation for all relevant packaged food placed on the EU market.

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

Actions

A declaration of compliance must accompany food contact materials and articles at all stages of the supply chain.

All suppliers of packaged foods to the EU market (particularly of fruit, vegetables, and fish products) should alert their packaging suppliers to the new rules, and evaluate strategies to transition away from the use of BPA.

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Timeline

Declaration of compliance:

Since **20 January 2025**, operators must ensure that the relevant food contact materials they use are accompanied by a **written declaration of compliance**. If not, they should request one from their packaging suppliers.

Ban on BPA and requirements for hazardous bisphenols:

From **20 July 2026**, food packaged in the relevant food contact materials that is placed on the EU market will have to comply with the ban on BPA and the new requirements for other hazardous bisphenols and derivatives.

For two exceptions (single-use “food contact articles”), there is a longer transition time to allow for the development of alternatives:

- packaging for fruit and vegetables, and fishery products: because the acidity of some preserved products makes it difficult to develop BPA-free alternatives
- packaging where a varnish or coating manufactured using BPA has been applied only to the outside metal surface: because the manufacture of alternatives is less advanced than for internal surfaces.

These two exceptions must comply with the new rules from **20 January 2028**.

A transitional period applies to all empty packaging placed on the EU market before the application dates. Packaging can be filled with food and sealed during the 12 months after 20 July 2026 or 20 January 2028 (depending on the type of packaging). The resulting packaged food can be sold in the EU with no time limitation until stocks are exhausted.

See Figure 1 for more information.

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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Tables & Figures

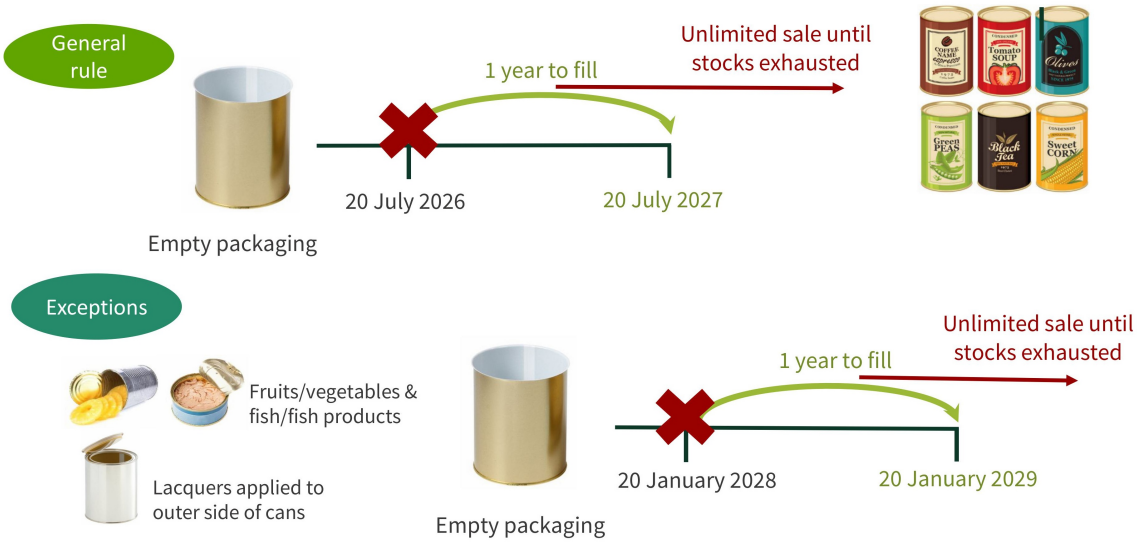


Figure 1: Timeline of new BPA ban

Table 1
Permitted uses of bisphenol A (BPA)

Material type	Specific application for use as a monomer or starting substance in the manufacture of:	Other restrictions
Varnishes and coatings	Liquid epoxy resins on self-supporting food contact materials or articles with capacity over 1,000 litres	Migration into food should not be detectable; final food contact articles should be cleaned and flushed before first contact with food
Plastics	Polysulphone filtration membrane assemblies	

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Source: Regulation 2024/3190, Annex II

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