Food contact materials: authorised substances

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EU authorises the use of multiple substances in plastic food contact materials from 18 November 2026

Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/2412 of 28 October 2026 amending Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/245 of 2 February 2026 amending Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 as regards the authorisation or the conditions of use of several substances

Update

The European Union (EU) has authorised the use of the following substances in the manufacture of plastic food contact materials (FCM):

- chopped carbon fibres from carbonised polyacrylonitrile
- nano precipitated calcium carbonate, uncoated
- poly(2-hydroxypropanoic acid), n-octyl/n-decyl esters
- mixture of 1,9-nonanediamine (NMDA) and 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine (MODA).

The authorisations include specifications on how and when these substances may be used.

What is the EU doing?

Newly authorised substances

The EU has authorised the use of the following substances in the manufacture of plastic FCM:

- chopped carbon fibres from carbonised polyacrylonitrile
- nano precipitated calcium carbonate, uncoated
- poly(2-hydroxypropanoic acid), n-octyl/n-decyl esters
- mixture of 1,9-nonanediamine (NMDA) and 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine (MODA).

The specifications or restrictions of use for these substances are given in Table 1.

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Previously authorised substances

In February 2026, the EU authorised the use of the following in the manufacture of plastic FCM:

- phosphorous acid, triphenyl ester, polymer with 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol and polypropylene glycol, C10–16 alkyl esters
- calcium tert-butylphosphonate
- amines, di-C14-C20-alkyl, oxidised, from hydrogenated vegetable oil
- wax, rice bran, oxidised
- wax, rice bran, oxidised, calcium salt
- 2,2′-oxydiethylamine.

The EU has also amended the name of the substance “amines, bis(hydrogenated tallow alkyl) oxidised” to “amines, di-C14-C20-alkyl, oxidised, from hydrogenated tallow”.

The conditions of use for each substance can be found in the Annex to Regulation 2026/245.

Why?

The authorisation of substances for the manufacture of plastic FCM under Regulation 2026/2412 follows safety evaluations by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA 2022a, 2022b, 2023, 2024).

Timeline

The substances newly authorised in Regulation 2026/2412 can be used from **18 November 2026**.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

To continue exporting to the EU market, operators must ensure that packaged products comply with the requirements in Regulation 10/2011.

In particular, exporters need to ensure that food does not contain harmful substances that exceed the migration limits set out in the Regulation. This requires transparent communication with packaging suppliers. Where listed substances are used, monitoring may be required to ensure migration limits are not exceeded.

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Recommended Actions

Suppliers of packaged food to the EU market should inform packaging suppliers about upcoming changes in the authorised substances listed in Regulation 10/2011, Annex I.

Background

Regulation 10/2011 specifies which substances may be used in plastic FCM, and establishes specific migration limits (SML) that limit their presence in food. For substances with no SML or other restrictions in Annex I, a generic SML of 60 mg/kg applies.

The Regulation also requires that materials and articles comply with specified quality and safety standards, and that they are labelled appropriately. The Regulation applies to all plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, including packaging, containers, and utensils.

Wood flour and fibres (untreated) and salicylic acid

Since 1 August 2023, the following substances were not permitted for use in the manufacture of plastic FCM (Regulation 2023/1442):

- wood flour and fibres, untreated
- salicylic acid.

Since 31 January 2026, plastic materials manufactured using these substances can be put on the market provided that EFSA has validated applications that were submitted to an EU Member State before 1 August 2024 (Regulation 2025/2240). Applicants may be manufacturers of FCM, or of inputs such as wood fibre, for example. Use of the substance is limited to the conditions described in the application.

Resources

EFSA (2022a) Scientific Opinion on the safety assessment of the substance chopped carbon fibres, from carbonised polyacrylonitrile, for use in food contact materials. EFSA Journal, 20(1): 7003.

EFSA (2022b) Scientific Opinion on the safety assessment of the substance nano precipitated calcium carbonate for use in plastic food contact materials. EFSA Journal, 20(2): 7135.

EFSA (2023) Scientific Opinion on the safety assessment of the substance poly(2-hydroxypropanoic acid), n-octyl/n-decyl esters, for use in food contact materials. EFSA Journal, 21(7): 8100.

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EFSA (2024) Safety assessment of mixtures of 1,9-nonanediamine (NMDA) and 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine (MODA), for use in food contact materials. EFSA Journal, 22(4): e8703.

For scientific opinions on substances that may be used in food contact materials, use the search tool on the EFSA Journal webpage (top right).

Regulation (EU) 2025/2240 as regards the transitional measures for plastic materials and articles manufactured with salicylic acid or untreated wood flour or fibres

Regulation (EU) 2023/1442 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, as regards changes to substance authorisations and addition of new substances

Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

Sources

Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/2412 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/245 as regards the authorisation or the conditions of use of several substances

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Tables & Figures

Table 1: Restrictions and specifications for substances newly authorised for the manufacture of plastic food contact materials

Authorised substance	Restrictions and specifications
Chopped carbon fibres from carbonised polyacrylonitrile	Only to be used at ≤40% weight per weight (w/w) for polyether ether ketone (PEEK) polymer
	Fibres must be manufactured from polyacrylonitrile, have a minimum carbon content of 95% w/w, and have size not at nanoscale at any dimension (diameter >100 nm)
Nano precipitated calcium carbonate, uncoated	Not to be used in the manufacture of materials and articles intended for contact with infant formula
Poly(2-hydroxypropanoic acid), n-octyl/n-decyl esters	Only to be used as an additive up to 15% w/w in materials and articles made from polylactic acid (PLA) that do not contain starch or other similar additives, and that are intended to be in contact (up to 40°C for up to 10 days) with water in non-alcoholic beverages, fresh fruit and vegetables, or vinegar (as specified in Regulation 10/2011, Annex III, Table 2)
Mixture of 1,9-nonanediamine (NMDA) and 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine (MODA)	Only to be used as a co-monomer with terephthalic acid to manufacture polyamide materials and articles
	Not to be used in the manufacture of materials and articles intended for contact with infant formula and human milk
	Migration of the fraction with molecular weight below 1,000 Da consisting of NMDA/MODA-related species must not exceed 5 mg/kg food

Source: based on Regulation 2026/2412

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