Food contact materials: authorised substances

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

Regulation (EU) 2025/2240 of 5 November 2025 amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1442 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

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has authorised the use of the following substances that may be used intentionally in the manufacture of food contact materials (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”.

In July 2023, the EU revoked its authorisation of the use of untreated wood flour/fibres and salicylic acid in the manufacture of plastic materials intended to come into contact with food. However, it did allow sale of these materials to continue, provided businesses have submitted an application to an EU Member State authority for validation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Following complications with providing EFSA with the data needed, additional time was allowed to complete applications, and businesses could continue to place these plastic materials on the EU market until 31 January 2026 and beyond under specific conditions.

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Actions

Regulation 2023/1442 revoking the use of untreated wood flour and fibres, and salicylic acid, in plastic food contact materials applies from **1 August 2023**.

There will be a transition period to allow the sale of existing stocks: plastic materials containing salicylic acid or untreated wood flour or fibres which were first placed on the market between **1 February 2025** and **31 January 2026** may remain on the EU market until stocks are exhausted, provided that applications to use these substances have been made and are considered valid.

Timeline

The new substances authorised in Regulation 2026/245 can be used from **23 February 2026**.

Plastic materials containing salicylic acid or untreated wood flour or fibres could be sold in the EU until (and even beyond) **31 January 2026** under specific conditions.

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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