Plastic food contact materials: basic rules

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/1616 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods

Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/2269 as regards labelling of recycled plastic, the development of recycling technologies and the transfer of authorisations

What is changing and why?

In 2022, the European Union (EU) introduced new rules on recycled plastic materials that are intended to come into contact with foods (Regulation 2022/1616). These rules have applied from October 2022, and also affect non-EU products exported to the EU.

Recycling installations, facilities, and companies must submit an online form to be included in the relevant EU register for operators authorised for recycling food contact materials (via the European Commission's Plastic Recycling webpage).

Food business operators may only use recycled plastics manufactured by registered facilities, and must hold a declaration of compliance from their suppliers. Certain materials are restricted, and operators must follow and communicate the instructions for use.

Regulation 2025/2269 corrects some errors and clarifies some wording in these basic rules.

Actions

Suppliers of prepacked food to the EU market must ensure that any recycled plastic materials coming into contact with food are produced by recycling facilities that are registered with the EU and have provided the necessary declaration of compliance. This can be checked on the EU Register of Recycling facilities.

Timeline

The new rules for all plastic recycling technologies and processes have applied since **10 October 2022**.

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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