Plastic food contact materials: good manufacturing practice

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/351 of 21 February 2025 amending Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, amending Regulation (EU) 2022/1616 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 282/2008, and amending Regulation (EC) No 2023/2006 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food as regards recycled plastic and other matters related to quality control and manufacturing of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food

What is changing and why?

Plastic FCM

Regulation 2025/351 sets new rules for plastic food contact materials (FCM). This includes extending purity requirements to cover substances that are manufactured from waste, and substances of natural origin. Manufacturers of plastic materials will be required to give more extensive information to food businesses. Food operators will also have to be able to provide more information in their declaration of compliance, including details on all substances, impurities, and products present in the plastic materials; and whether plastics have been manufactured from waste. Other new rules include conditions about the use of reprocessed plastic in plastic materials. The aim is to protect European Union (EU) consumers from harmful substances that could pass from plastic materials into food.

Recycled plastic FCM

The new rules regarding composition, certain materials, and compliance also generally apply to recycled plastic materials and articles. The new Regulation clarifies that the high purity requirement does not apply to substances contained in the input and remaining in the output of the plastic waste decontamination process. The high purity requirement therefore only applies to any substance that was added during the recycling process and is still present in the material produced.

Actions

Plastic FCM

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Exporters to the EU of food products packaged in plastic should inform their packaging suppliers of the changes to rules on plastic FCM.

Recycled plastic FCM

Exporters to the EU of food products packaged in recycled plastic 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.

Timeline

The new Regulation applies from **16 March 2025**.

A transition period is foreseen for products complying with the rules in Regulation 10/2011: plastic materials placed on the EU market for the first time before 16 September 2026 can continue to be placed on the market until stocks are exhausted.

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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