

Regulatory and practical challenges of ensuring compliance with food contact regulations

Food Contact Plastics Seminar – EuPC
19-20 April 2018



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Who we are

25 National Federations
(+ 2 Observers)



27 European Sector Associations



21 Large companies



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EU FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRY FIGURES

TURNOVER

€1,098 billion

Largest manufacturing sector in the EU

EMPLOYMENT

4.24 million people

Leading employer in the EU

SALES WITHIN THE SINGLE MARKET

90%

of food and drink turnover

EXTERNAL TRADE

€102 billion

Exports

€71.9 billion

Imports

VALUE ADDED

1.7%

of EU gross value added

NUMBER OF COMPANIES

289,000

SMEs

48.3%

of food and drink turnover

€30.1 billion

Trade balance

17.3%

EU share of global exports

CONSUMPTION

14%

of household expenditure on food and drink products

R&D EXPENDITURE

€2.8 billion

62.1%

of food and drink employment

Sources: Eurostat; JRC; UN COMTRADE

quality

Our governance



FCMAT group focuses on...

Evolution of EU overall regulatory framework

Circular economy

Printed Food Contact Materials

EFSA/ECHA

Evolution of EU overall regulatory framework on FCM

Overall evaluation of food contact materials at EU level

- Ex-post evaluation of Regulation (EC) No1935/2004
 - Evaluation Roadmap on Food Contact Materials Legislation
 - Beneficial exercise for the safety of consumers and the function of the internal market
 - Based on the results of the evaluation, the Commission could decide to come forward with an initiative harmonising rules for currently non-harmonised food contact materials
 - We advocate that this initiative does not delay on-going pieces of EC work which are important to ensure a level playing field in the EC and a proper function of the internal market

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Priorities of FCMAT group

Printed Food Contact Materials

- To monitor the developments on printed FCM at national and EU level
- To work on elements that the groups wishes to see in the future legislation
- To liaise as appropriate with the PIJITF group

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FCMAT group topics of interest

Environmental sustainability Committee

- Authorisations of **recycling processes** and the EFSA evaluations

ECHA

- Monitoring ECHA evaluations with potential implications to FCM

Food and drink producers' role as regards FCM

- As the end user of the packaging we are the ones who put the packaging in the hands of the final consumer, therefore we have the ultimate responsibility in front of the consumer to select and use compliant and safe packaging materials.
- Roles of FoodDrinkEurope members:
 - end user (buying FCM articles to pack food)
 - producer of final articles (e.g. thermoformed plastic pots produced on the line, PET bottles blow from preforms)
 - producer of intermediate articles (producing the preforms from resin by injection, before blowing and filling the bottles)

Steps to ensure compliance: responsibilities of the food manufacturer

- Flow of information both ways along the chain is of great importance to ensure compliance of final article.
- Sharing with the supplier sufficient information about the intended use of the FCM:
 - Product specifications, contact conditions, countries of commercialisation of the finished product
- Perform a critical review of compliance information received from the suppliers:
 - check compliance with applicable restrictions for substances with restrictions as declared by the supplier in the final article

Expectations from packaging material producers

- expect producers are aware of regulatory framework applicable to their activities
- expect producers to be reliable and competent partners for achieving compliance of the final articles
- expect packaging producers to share information and to produce high quality DoCs

Communication in the supply chain

- Exchange of information in the supply chain is crucial to ensure compliance at the end of the chain
- Information does not function properly; major issues noticed:
 - The Declaration of Compliance needs to be followed by audits and surveillance plans are key elements in order to be effective.
 - The overall quality of DoCs available on the market is often low, as reported by various authorities campaigns (Ireland, Nordics...) and as seen by daily practice of the FoodDrinkEurope FCMAT members.

Communication in the supply chain

- Major issues noticed:
 - Suppliers should get a better knowledge of available regulatory and non-regulatory texts in order to be able to produce better DoCs and to prove safety of materials (harmonised and especially for non-harmonised materials).

Communication in the supply chain

- As the packaging supplier has to update and convey new information to its customers in case there is a change in the legislation, better coordination is needed on the timing of changes to avoid unnecessary additional economic and administrative costs.
- On the other hand, innovation is important for the sector, hence amendments related to innovation should be quickly taken up.

Communication in the supply chain

- The declaration of compliance information concerns the specific use of food contact material (FCM).
- Compliance work should be conducted as high up in the manufacturing chain as possible - up until the food is packaged.

Conclusions

- Food Business Operators are ultimately responsible for the safety and compliance of finished products, which is a pre-packed product therefore includes the safety and compliance of the packaging material
- Sharing of information along the value chain is necessary to ensure compliance of the end packaging

Conclusions

- Both suppliers and food business operators have a duty to follow regulatory evolutions which are frequent as the topic is raising more and more interest and scrutiny from the civil society and political actors.
- Trade associations such as FoodDrinkEurope and EuPC have a key role to play to supporting their members by providing access to information and opportunities to engage with EU legislators

Thank you for your attention

www.fooddrinkeurope.eu

