


**SFDA Announcement\***

Further to SFDA Memo No. 197 and Memo No. 584 circulated on 4.2.1431 AH and 13.4.1431 AH respectively concerning the import requirements for food contact packing and packaging materials, the SFDA has gone through a number of letters from importers requesting a detailed list of the required lab analysis to be included in the certificate indicated in previous related memos.

Therefore, in order to ensure public interest, consumer health, and to avoid rejecting the entry of food products contained in the above described materials, the SFDA would like all the concerned importers of food contact packing and packaging materials to be advised of the following:

- I. The packing and packaging materials referred to in previous memorandums include those which directly come into contact with food (e.g. wrappings, plastic, metal, glass, carton, and multi-layered packing containers, and any other materials used for packing and wrapping foodstuff, as well as dispensable food grade plastic containers such as trays, cups, spoons, forks, straws...etc). The memo does not cover those packing and packaging substances which do not come into direct contact with foods or the raw materials used in thereof manufacturing.



- II. It is mandatory that the food grade sign  is posted on plastic or plastic-padded packing and packaging materials directly in contact with food.

- III. Certificate of laboratory test result requirements for packing and packaging materials directly in contact with food:

1. Each consignment must be accompanied by a certificate, or an original copy, issued from an
2. Authorized laboratory. In addition, it must be attested from the industrial and commercial chambers, and it is considered valid for one year unless there is a change in the main ingredients (such as the primary substance, additives including the pigments and plasticizers) constituting the materials.
3. The laboratory test results must be clearly indicated in the certificate as per the (enclosed) guide for cross contamination limits for packing and packaging materials.
4. The required laboratory test results must be conducted on the materials after manufacturing and before use or direct contact with food.

\* This document is available in English. SFDA offers this translation as a service to a broad international audience. We, however, recognize that the translated version may not be as precise, clear, or complete as the Arabic version. Therefore, the official version of this document is the Arabic version.



IV. SFDA expects all industrial and commercial chambers to take the necessary arrangements for publishing the above in their magazines and bulletins as soon as possible.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated

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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Saudi Food & Drug Authority



Food

**Executive Department for Technical  
Regulation And Standards**

**FOOD PACKAGING REGULATION**

## FOOD PACKAGING REGULATION

### Introduction:

Food packaging materials are making the circulation of foods easier and less vulnerable to the causes of contamination from various chemical and biological threats. To keep the food packaged safe and ensure the integrity and the safety of consumers, Saudi Food and Drug Authority recommends to follow approved standard specifications as well as to take into account that the limits of the migration of components from packaging materials in contact with food have to be compatible with these guidelines.

### 1-Plastic material & varnish:

- Overall migration less than 10 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> or 60 mg/kg.
- Specific migration less than the Specific Migration Limit. Table 1

**Table 1: Specific migration for plastic materials in contact with food**

Type of plastic material	Chemical Name	Specific Migration Limit	Notes
<b>Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)</b>	Terephthalic acid	7.5 mg/kg	In Food simulants
	Monoethylene glycol	30 mg/kg	
	Diethylene glycol	30 mg/kg	
<b>Polycarbonate (PC)</b>	Bisphenol A	0.6 mg/kg	Absence of bisphenol A in feeding bottles
<b>Varnish, Coatings</b>	(a) BADGE (= 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane bis(2,3-epoxypropyl) ether; (CAS No = 001675-54-3) (b) BADGE.H <sub>2</sub> O; (CAS No = 076002-91-0) (c) BADGE.HCl; (CAS No = 013836-48-1) (d) BADGE.2HCl;	The sum of the migration levels shall not exceed 1 mg/kg	In Food or Food Simulants

	(e) BADGE.H2O.HCl (CAS No = 227947-06-0)		
	(a) BFDGE (= bis(hydroxyphenyl)methane bis(2,3-epoxypropyl)ethers); (CAS No 039817-09-9) (b) BFDGE.H2O; (CAS No = 076002-91-0) (c) BFDGE.HCl; (CAS No = 013836-48-1) (d) BFDGE.2HCl; (CAS No = 004809-35-2) (e) BFDGE.H2O.HCl (CAS No = 227947-06-0)	The sum of the migration levels shall not exceed 1 mg/kg	

## 2-Rubber

- Volatile organic materials less than 0,5 %.
- Global migration less than 10 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> or 60 mg/kg of foodstuff .
- Specific migrations less than the Specific Migration Limit:
  - Aromatic amines (less than 1 mg/kg of foodstuff).
  - Formaldehyde (less than 3 mg/kg of foodstuff) .
  - Nitrosamines (less than µg/dm<sup>2</sup> of material or less than 0,01 mg/kg of nipple or lollipop).
  - N-Nitrosatable substances (less than 10 µg/dm<sup>2</sup> of material or less than 0,1 mg/kg of nipple or lollipop) .
  - Zinc (less than 10 mg/kg of foodstuff) .

## 3-Silicones

- Volatile organic materials less than 0,5 %.
- Global migration less than 10 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> or 60 mg/kg.
- Specific migrations less than to the Specific Migration Limit:
  - Organotins (less than 0,1 mg/kg).

## 4-Papers and boards

### 1) For materials in contact with dried and oil-free foodstuffs:

No transfer of biocide agents

- Pentachlorophenol (less than 0,1 mg/kg of material).
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (less than 2 mg/kg of material).
- Specific migrations of the adjuvant which are below the limits:
- Formaldehyde (less than 1 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> of material).
- Glyoxal ( less than 1,5 mg/dm<sup>2</sup>).
- Fluorine (absence of material processing).

### 2) For materials in contact with wet and/or fat foodstuffs

No transfer of biocide agents

- Pentachlorophenol (less than 0,1 mg/kg of material).
- Polychlorinated biphenyls ( less than 2 mg/kg of material).
- Specific migrations of the adjuvant which are below the limits:
- Formaldehyde (less than 1 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> of material).
- Glyoxal (less than 1,5 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> of material).
- Fluorine (absence of material processing).
- Brighteners (absence of migration).

### 3) Water-extractable heavy metals content below the limits:

- Lead (less than 3 mg/kg of material).
- Cadmium (less than 0,5 mg/kg of material).
- Mercury (less than 0,3 mg/kg of material).
- Chromium (less than 0,25 mg/kg of material).
- Hot water extract (less than 10 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> or less than 10 mg/g of material)  
for hot filtration materials.

## 5-Metals

### - Undesirable elements content (Others metals).

- Lead (less than 0,05 %).
- Cadmium (less than 0,010%).
- Arsenic (less than 0,030%).

**- Specific migrations of metallic elements (Coating and miscellaneous)**

- Nickel (less than 0,5mg/kg of foodstuff).
- Chromium (less than 5mg/kg of foodstuff).
- Zinc (less than 10 mg/kg of foodstuff).
- Lead (less than 4 mg/kg of foodstuff).
- Cadmium (less than 0,3 mg/kg of foodstuff).

**6-Glass - Enamel – Vitro-ceramics**

**1) Articles which CANNOT be filled and articles which can be filled with a depth below 25 mm:**

- Lead (less than 0,8 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> of material).
- Cadmium (less than 0,07 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> of material).
- Chromium VI (less than 0,005 mg/dm<sup>2</sup> of decorated or enameled materials).

**2) All other articles which can be filled:**

- Lead (less than 4,0 mg/l of material).
- Cadmium (less than 0,3 mg/l).
- Chromium VI (less than 0,03 mg/l of enameled or decorated materials).

**3) Cooking ware; packaging and storage vessels:**

- Lead (less than 1,5 mg/l of material).
- Cadmium (less than 0,1 mg/l of material).
- Chromium VI (less than 0,03 mg/l of enameled or decorated materials).