Food contact materials HCT-202302-02

EU proposes to amend plastic regulations on food contact materials

On January 23, 2023, the European Union submitted to the WTO Circular G/SPS/N/EU/611, proposing to amend the contents of Table 1 (Union list), Table 2 (Group restriction of substances) and Table 3 (Notes on verification of compliance) in Annex I of the Food Contact Plastic Materials Regulation (EU) 10/2011. The proposed date of adoption of the draft regulation is March 31, 2023, and the proposed date of publish is April 3, 2023, and it will take effect 20 days after its publish. Food contact plastic products that are first put on the market within 18 months after the entry into force of this revised regulation can continue to be put on the market until the stocks are exhausted.

Revision of Table 1 (Positive List) can be divided into three parts: revoking authorization, updating entry, and added entry:

Revocation of authorization: revoke the authorization of entry 96 on wood flour and fibers, untreated and entry 121 on salicylic acid.

Update entry: 9 entry are updated, including: DBP; BBP; DEHP; DINP; triethanolamine; Perchloric acid, salts (perchlorate); diethyl[[3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl]methyl]phosphonate; PHBH; Phosphorous acid, triphenyl ester,polymer with alpha-hydro-omega-hydroxypoly[oxy(methyl-1,2-ethanediyl)], C10-16 alkyl esters.

Added entry: five new substance authorizations were add, namely entry 1078 and 1080-1083.

■ The revision of Table 2 (Group restriction of substances) can be divided into two parts: Update entry and adding entry:

Update entry: update 3 entry, involving restricted substances groups 7, 26 and 32. Among them, the restriction of DIBP was added to the restricted substance group 32.

added entry: three new entry are added, including restricted substances group 36, 37 and 38. Among them, restricted substance group 36 requires that the specific migration results of 4 phthalates be converted to less than 0.6 mg/kg according to the formula DBP * 5+DIBP * 4+BBP * 0.1+DEHP * 1.

■ Table 3 (Notes on verification of compliance): entry 30 was add.



In the above revisions, it is necessary to focus on the changes in the requirements of DBP, BBP, DEHP, and DINP, because these four substances can be commonly used as plasticizers in plastic materials. The following table summarizes the comparison between the draft requirements and the current requirements of the above four substances.

Substance (Entry)	Draft requirements	Current requirements
DBP (157)	Specific migration limit: 0.12 mg/kg Restricted substance group entry: 32, 36	Specific migration limit: 0.3 mg/kg Restricted substance group entry: 32
BBP (159)	Specific migration limit: 6 mg/kg Restricted substance group entry: 32, 36	Specific migration limit: 30 mg/kg Restricted substance group entry: 32
DEHP (283)	Specific migration limit: 0.6mg/kg Restricted substance group entry: 32, 36	Specific migration limit: 1.5 mg/kg Restricted substance group entry: 32
DINP (728)	On the basis of the current requirements, the requirement that the substances corresponding to Article 157, 159, 283 or 1085 of Table 1 should not be used in combination is added.	Current restrictions.

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