

## Legislation – Food Packaging – EU Active & Intelligent

Active and intelligent materials extend the shelf-life by maintaining or improving the condition of packaged food, by releasing or absorbing substances to or from the food or its surrounding environment.

As a result, they are exempted from the general inertness rule in the Framework Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004. The specific rules in Regulation (EC) No 450/2009 on active and intelligent materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs apply to address their specific purpose, e.g.:

- absorption of substances from food packaging interior such as liquid and oxygen
- release of substances into the food such as preservatives
- indicate expiry of food through labelling that changes colour when maximum shelf life or storage temperature is exceeded

Active materials do not include systems that absorb substances entering from the atmosphere, such as active oxygen barriers.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 450/2009 foresees the [establishment of a Union list](#) of substances permitted for the manufacture of active and intelligent materials.

The information contained herein is based on data believed to be up-to-date and correct at the time writing. It is provided to our customers in order that they are able to comply with all applicable health and safety laws, regulations, and orders. In particular, customers are under an obligation to carry out a risk assessment under relevant Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in line with legislation and as a result take adequate measures to protect consumers.