

Legislation – Food Packaging - Netherlands

The Dutch Commodities Act (Packaging and Consumer Articles Regulation), commonly known as the Warenwet, regulates packaging and consumer articles coming into contact with foodstuffs. It contains general rules applicable to all food contact materials, followed by material-specific substance lists and restrictions. Although printing inks are not directly covered, coatings, pigments and colorants are specifically included. Risk assessment, in accordance with internationally recognized scientific principles, can be used for non-listed substances. The threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) approach is mentioned as an accepted method for substances which lack adequate toxicity data.

Migration should be tested according to the EU Plastics Regulation (EU No 10/2011) and the Commission's migration guidelines, but there are concerns that these methods will be applied inappropriately to non-plastic food contact materials, such as coatings and printing inks. Trade associations covering non-plastic sectors are working to develop their own migration testing guidelines and demonstrate where the approach specified for food contact plastic is not suitable.

The Dutch and Belgian authorities are reported to be working on aligning their national legislation on food contact coatings.

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.