

Legislation – Food Packaging – United Kingdom

Although the United Kingdom left the European Union at the end of 2020, it still retains all of the EU legislation relating to food contact materials, which has been enacted into its own national legislation. The United Kingdom's Food Standards Agency has published [guidance](#) relating to authorisation of new food contact materials intended to be placed on the market in Great Britain, based on that of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Substances used in plastic or regenerated cellulose film that were authorised by the European Commission before 1st January 2021 according to Regulation (EU) 10/2011 or Directive 2007/42/EC do not need to be re-authorised by the UK authorities to be placed on the GB market. However, if an application was submitted to the European Union but not completed before the deadline, then a new application will need to be submitted to the UK.

Since positive lists for active & intelligent materials and recycled plastics have not been established in EU legislation, these products may be placed on the market in GB if they meet the requirements of GB's [General Food Law Regulations](#) and any general criteria in FCM legislation. Northern Ireland will continue to follow the EU rules based on the agreements in the Northern Ireland Protocol, which is part of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement. It remains to be seen how closely the UK will follow subsequent changes to EU legislation, since there is the potential for divergence.

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.