

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Packaging-content compatibility: at the heart of the promise to the consumer

The French Packaging Council wishes to remind the fundamentals of the packaging-content compatibility, essential to the security and the advertised quality of the packaged product.

100 billion

consumer units of household packaging produced for the French market each year⁽¹⁾

189

Instances of non-conformity relating to the suitability of materials in contact with food detected in 2016 by the French general directorate for competition policy, consumer affairs, and fraud control (DGCCRF)⁽²⁾

Sources : (1) ADEME « Le gisement des emballages ménagers en France » - December 2016 / (2) DGCCRF « Aptitude des matériaux au contact alimentaire » - June 2017



FIGURES

Even if the non-compliance rate is very low, the French Packaging Council considers that everything must be done to lower it to zero. Thus, for all development of packaged product until it reaches the market, the French Packaging Council recommends all actors of the container-content value chain take diverse measures which ensure the conformity of compatibility of the container-content pairing:

- ▶ Respect **regulations**
- ▶ Carry out all **conformity actions** linked to placing packaged products on the market
- ▶ Verify the **mechanical performance** of the container-content pairing
- ▶ Guarantee the **stability of the packaged product**: organoleptic quality, migration of substances, etc.
- ▶ To ensure a **minimal environmental impact** (respect the essential requirements, recyclability of the packaging, etc.)



RECOMMENDATIONS

The quality of a packaged product must be **anticipated from its conception** in order to ensure quality throughout the supply chain until the final consumer, including the final processing of packaging.

This quality expected by the consumer/user must also be ensured during the **lifecycle of the product** in foreseeable conditions of use.

This quality corresponds to the **conformity to the predefined characteristics set forth by the producer** through product specifications describing the elements of the product: health security, organoleptic qualities, composition and nutritional value, goods and services, quantities, etc.



STAKES

Regulations:

- ▶ Regulation 1223/2009 relating to cosmetic products
- ▶ Regulation 2023/2006 relating to good fabrication practices of materials and objects meant to come in contact with foodstuffs.
- ▶ Regulation 1935/2004 concerning materials and objects meant to come in contact with foodstuffs
- ▶ Directive 94/62 relating to packaging and packaging waste
- ▶ Article L411-1 of the Consumer code

References and best practices guide:

- ▶ Practical guide for suitability for contact with food - ACTIA
- ▶ Guide for client/supplier relations : packaging materials and articles in contact with food - CLAC (later PAE)



REFERENCES

The 3 key points of the container-content compatibility:



1 Health and security of individuals

Guaranteeing the security and health of individuals and consumer protection:

- ▶ May it be foodstuffs, cosmetics, etc., the product-packaging pairing must be safe for human health in the context of normal usage conditions;
- ▶ For products coming in contact with packaging, instructions/information must be made available to consumers (notably concerning shelf life limits: temperature, contact time, etc.) and restrictions of use;
- ▶ **The product manufacturer is responsible for the quality of the packaged product that they make available to the consumer during its lifecycle: they are therefore responsible for the packaging-content compatibility and therefore of the choice of packaging for their product;**
- ▶ The packaging manufacturer is responsible for the conformity of their packaging as it relates to the specifications established by the product manufacturer;
- ▶ The manufacturer of the materials used for the packaging is responsible for the conformity of the materials as it relates to the specifications established by the product manufacturer.



2 Product quality protection

Ensuring the quality of packaged products available to consumers/users throughout their lifecycle:

- ▶ The quality of a packaged product must be evaluated from its design. The quality must be guaranteed throughout its lifecycle in the supply chain until it reaches the end consumer;
- ▶ The stability of a product over time, in the context of expected use, must be evaluated in terms of organoleptic characteristics as well as in terms of interaction with the packaging.



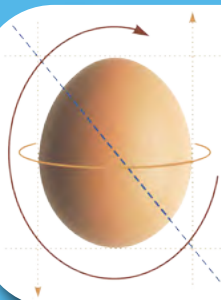
3 End of life and environment

Integrating the container-content compatibility with the environment:

- ▶ The packaging must respect the essential requirements of the European directive 94/62/EC;
- ▶ The compatibility is evaluated in light of the strictly necessary uses of the packaging, while respecting the consumer acceptability and the safety of the product;
- ▶ Verify the existence of recycling channels for the packaging as well as its recyclability.



[The full document is available on the CNE website](#)



Since 1997, the French Packaging Council has drawn together all the stakeholders of the packaging chain. Its purpose is to develop and disseminate the best practices with regard to the design, use and marketing of product packaging.

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