

submissions

From: Frederick Vale [REDACTED]
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RESPONSE TEMPLATE

All stakeholders are invited to respond to questions posed in this Consultation Paper.

Please indicate if you are a:

(required)

- ☒ Raw material provider
- ☐ Packaging manufacturer/converter/provider
- ☐ Peak industry/trade association
- ☐ Food business (manufacturer/importer/brand owner/retailer)
- ☐ Consumer
- ☐ Government representative (state/territory or Commonwealth agency)
- ☐ Public health representative
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If you are a business, please indicate the approximate number of employees in your business:

- ☐ 1-20 ☒ 20-200 ☐ <200



Question 1 (refer to p.9)

What concerns, if any, do you have about food packaging in relation to food safety?

☐ None

Please provide details of your concerns

1. Internationally printing ink manufacturers have developed products that will have much lower potential for chemical migration but these products involve new chemicals that are not listed in the "Australian Index of Chemical Substances" and to register these materials which are normally of a low hazard to human health is not commercially viable.
2. Reluctance of some packaging converters to use Low Migration printing inks due to the extra cost of these materials (i.e. in some cases 30% higher).
3. The use of printed packaging material in conventional & microwave ovens has not been satisfactorily investigated to determine if ink components are stable at elevated temperatures or whether they could potentially breakdown to hazardous chemicals that could migrate into the packaged food.

Question 2 (refer to p.9)

What measures do you think could be implemented to resolve these concerns?

☐ None

Please provide details

1. The adoption of EuPIA (European Printing Ink Association) guidelines in relation to the manufacture of printing inks for food packaging.
2. The adoption of EuPIA "Exclusion List" & Japanese "Voluntary Regulation Concerning Printing Inks (Negative List)".
3. As there is only one regulation currently in the world that covering printing ink raw materials, i.e. Swiss Ordinance RS817.023.21 & Annex 6 of the Ordinance of the FHDA on articles & materials 23 November 2005 & updated 4th Edition 1;12;2012. There is also a German Ordinance we believe to be ratified in 2015 which may be a suitable alternative.

Question 3 (refer to p.11)

If you are a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier, please detail the types (s) and relative volumes for the different food packaging materials produced by your business and whether the main components are imported or made locally (in Australia or New Zealand).

Type of packaging material (for example)	Volume (ktpa*)	Local/Imported
Carton board (folding)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Cardboard/paper (virgin)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Cardboard/paper (recycled)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic mono-layers	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic multi-layers	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic laminate	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic rigid	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic co-extruded	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Plastic (recycled)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Metal	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Composites (eg. Paper/foil/plastic)	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Glass	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Ceramic	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> 0-50 <input type="radio"/> 50-500 <input type="radio"/> 500-5000	<input type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> Imported

*Kilo tonnes per annum

Question 4 (refer to p.12)

If you are a peak body/trade association, do you have the expertise to offer food safety advice on chemical migration from packaging into food (CMPF) to businesses within the packaging supply chain?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 5 (refer to p.12)

As a peak body/trade association, is there a need for access to further advice on CMPF?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 6 (refer to p.13)

Can you please identify the risk identification, characterisation and mitigation strategies that your business uses and whether you use any others?

Please indicate which responses apply

- ☒ Adherence to either a mandatory or voluntary standard, Code of Practice (CoP), handbook or guideline that provides guidance on mitigation of potential risks associated with CMPF
- ☒ Prohibition of specific chemicals that should not be present in food if it is determined that they may migrate into food and present a significant risk
- ☐ Prescriptive regulatory requirements for CMPF to address identified risks (e.g. maximum limits, migratory limits)
- ☒ Recognition of other countries' approaches and/or requirements used to mitigate risk and adopting these for use in Australia/New Zealand
- ☒ Use of certificates of compliance confirming that packaging and packaging inputs adhere to a specific CoP, industry standard or regulation
- ☐ Instructions in the form of labelling requirements to mitigate risks at the consumer level (e.g. preparation instructions)
- ☐ Introduction of a post-market incident response mechanism (for example, to review poor or lack of application of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP))
- ☐ Establishment by packaging and food manufacturing companies of internal specifications and due diligence systems for packaging supply/use
- ☐ Other

Question 7 (refer to p.14)

*If you are a food business (manufacturer/importer/brand owner/retailer):
Is information readily available on whether or not food packaging (including for home brand products)
is made from recycled materials?*

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 8 (refer to p.14)

*If yes to Question 7, how do you ensure that packaging manufactured from recycled materials does
not contain chemicals that could migrate into food at levels of potential concern?*

- ☐ In-house testing
- ☐ Request Declaration of Compliance
- ☐ Auditing of supplier
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Question 9 (refer to p.16)

If you are a packaging or food manufacturer, or industry body, is using another countries' legislation (eg US/EU) suitable to ensure compliance with your customer's needs?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 10 (refer to p.16)

In your experience, do the EU or US requirements or guidelines and other CoPs adequately manage risks from CMPF from all recycled materials?

☒ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

1. The US CFR21 (FDA) does not have a specific section that relates to printing inks.
2. The EU Plastics regulations also do not cover all the raw materials commonly used in printing inks.

Question 11 (refer to p.17)

What would you see as the advantages and disadvantages of a co-regulatory approach to managing CMPF?

Advantages

Disadvantages

Question 12 (refer to p.17)

Does the Australian Standard for Plastic Materials for Food Contact Use – AS2070-1999 supply useful guidance to industry?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

It indicates that internationally recognized standards or regulations should be followed rather than producing another layer of requirements which would add to the cost of compliance.

Question 13 (refer to p.17)

Are there other pertinent industry standards (Australian/New Zealand or International) that you reference and adhere to regularly?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

As previously indicated;
Swiss Ordinance
EuPAI Guidelines & Exclusion List
Japanese Voluntary Negative List

Question 14 (refer to p.18)

Would you see benefits if a more prescriptive approach to packaging regulations were introduced?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

As long as the approach links to other internationally recognized regulations so that there does not end a duplication of requirements which will add to the cost of compliance.

Question 15 (refer to p.18)

Regardless of whether you buy or manufacture packaging, do you have a food safety or quality management program for that packaging?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 16 (refer to p.18)

*What are the key elements pertaining to chemical migration from packaging of this program (if you have one)?
For example, do you comply with a code of practice(s) or a specialist customised in-house program.*

- ☐ Comply with requirements in Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
- ☐ Comply with AS 2070-1999
- ☒ Comply with Good Manufacturing Practice
- ☒ Comply with EU regulations
- ☐ Comply with US regulations
- ☐ Comply with CoP (if so, which?)
- ☐ Comply with customised in-house program
- ☒ Ensure through chain product stewardship
- ☐ Other

Question 17 (refer to p.18)

*As a food business, what quality assurance and quality controls do you currently use to mitigate risks from CMPF?
Please provide examples.*

Quality Assurance

Quality Controls

Question 18 (refer to p.18)

As a food business, do you have in-house technical capacity or expertise related to packaging?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 19 (refer to p.18)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), if you print on the materials that you produce, do you have a quality assurance and quality control system (or similar) which includes printing inks and related products (eg. resins, adjuvants, mineral oil)?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

We are constantly requesting updated information from our raw material suppliers in regards to the components of their products and their adherence to internationally recognized standards for food packaging inks.

Question 20 (refer to p.18)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), do your quality assurance/quality control systems consider the end uses of the packaging?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Question 21 (refer to p.18)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), do you always prepare a Declaration of Compliance with existing legislation in order to meet your customers' needs?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

We will provide limited information on chemicals that could potentially migrated out of inks and will provide full details of ink composition if the customer is willing to signe a non-disclosure agreement with us.

Question 22 (refer to p.18 and SD3)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), as a result of international responses to issues with CMPF (eg. di-2-ethylhexyl adipate (DEHA)), and management measures undertaken by overseas manufacturers (eg. reformulation), have you adopted similar mitigation measures?

☐ No ☒ Yes

Please expand on your response

We constantly monitor issues relating to printing inks via our overseas sister companies and also through contact with international major food food manufactures and also by attending food packaging seminars that relate to printing inks and their components.

Question 23 (refer to p.18 and SD3)

As a packaging manufacturer/converter/supplier (including packaging importer), are you aware if semicarbazide is still used in manufacturing of food packaging materials in Australia and/or New Zealand?

☐ No ☐ Yes

Please expand on your response

Please detail any other comments you have on the Consultation Paper and the issues raised:

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