

Presseinformation

The EU Packaging Regulation comes into force in August 2026

PFAS: Strict Thresholds for Food Packaging

The new EU Packaging Regulation comes into force on August 12, 2026. From that date, packaging manufacturers must comply with a number of requirements: DEKRA's chemical experts note that very strict thresholds will apply for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in food packaging in particular. Manufacturers must also issue an EU declaration of conformity and prepare technical documentation.

The EU Packaging Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2025/40) repeals Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste. It will apply in all EU Member States from August 12, 2026, bringing a number of new requirements for the manufacturers of packaging.

Also from that date, new thresholds will apply for PFAS that come into contact with food products. PFAS is the umbrella term for per- and polyfluoroalkyl compounds, which are non-degradable and some of which are also harmful to health (forever chemicals). Various PFAS are used in cardboard packaging products to prevent the moisture from food soaking into them.

The restriction on the use of PFAS is very extensive. It is not limited to individual compounds but applies to all compounds that satisfy PFAS criteria. Moreover, the threshold values are extremely low, which will result in a significant risk of them being exceeded due to carryover and trace contamination, according to DEKRA's experts:

- 25 ppb for any single compound
- 250 ppb for the total of all single compounds identified
- 50 ppm for total fluorine in all PFAS, including polymers

In addition, packaging manufacturers must comply with a large number of requirements to reduce waste, including, for example, recyclability, recycled content, packaging minimization, and labeling. These requirements will be introduced stepwise in the years ahead.

Moreover, from the date the legislation enters into force, manufacturers must perform internal production controls to assess conformity prior to placing their products on the market. One key aspect of this is technical documentation.

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DEKRA is supporting companies in implementing these requirements. More information: <https://www.dekra.de/de/chemikaliensicherheit/>

The DEKRA Laboratory for Environmental and Product Analytics – part of DEKRA Automobil GmbH – offers PFAS analytical services to the manufacturers and distributors of products for food contact applications and consumer goods.

About DEKRA

For more than 100 years, DEKRA has been a trusted name in safety. Founded in 1925 with the original goal of improving road safety through vehicle inspections, DEKRA has grown to become the world's largest independent, non-listed expert organization in the field of testing, inspection, and certification. Today, as a global partner, the company supports its customers with comprehensive services and solutions to drive safety and sustainability forward—fully aligned with DEKRA's anniversary motto, "Securing the Future." In 2024, DEKRA generated revenue of 4.3 billion euros. Around 48,000 employees are providing qualified and independent expert services in approximately 60 countries across five continents. DEKRA holds a Platinum rating from EcoVadis, placing it among the top 1% of the world's most sustainable companies.