

Stora Enso Division Packaging Materials Liquid Packaging and Carton Board Unit & Beihai Mill Customer Information on Fluorinated Substances

Background

Fluorinated substances can be used to provide packaging materials with grease proof. The mills of Liquid Packaging and Carton Board and Beihai do not use any fluorine containing active components (including PFOA and PFOS).

The safety of fluorinated substances has been discussed and researched already for years. There is ongoing scientific and public debate about the possible risks of fluorinated substances in food contact materials. In some cases, fluorinated substances can be used in the surface of food contact materials (FCM) of paper and paperboard (e.g. cookie sheets, popcorn bags and some fast food packaging applications). Fluorinated substances constitute a large group of chemical substances, of which, some are persistent and bio accumulative. Some of them are also suspected to be carcinogenic, immunotoxic and endrocrine disruptors.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration discourages the intentional use of fluorinated substances in paper and paperboard FCM and has recommended a limit for the total content of organic fluorine in paper and paperboard FCM.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has introduced an indicator value that can help the industry assess whether organic fluorinated substances have been added to paper and cardboard. The indicator value is 10 microgram organic fluorine per square decimeter paper, when the paper has a weight of 0,5 gram per square decimeter. The indicator value is not the same as a legal limit value.

The companies must ensure compliance with regulation 1935/2004 (article 3). For the organic fluorinated substances, it can be done by documenting: 1) that these substances have not been added, or 2) compliance with the indicator value or 3) that a possible content of fluorinated substances above the indicator value does not cause migration to food in amounts that can endanger human health.

Safety and compliance of Stora Enso Liquid Packaging and Carton Board Unit & Beihai Mill

Paper and paperboards produced at our mills are in compliance with the Regulation (EC) 1935/2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food and are produced in accordance with Regulation (EC) 2023/2006 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

Our products are regarded as safe, when they fulfil requirements mentioned in the Article 3 of Regulation (EC) 1935/2004, when used in a manner that is designated suitable in product specific Declaration of Compliance.

For the purpose of achieving high chemical and microbiological purity, the mills of Liquid Packaging and Carton Board Unit (i.e. Skoghall, Fors, Ingerois, Imatra) and Beihai Mill use only fresh and virgin fibres and food contact approved chemical additives. In addition, all used chemical additives comply with German BfR Recommendation XXXVI and/or US FDA 21 C.F.R Regulation. The pulps are elemental chlorine free (ECF).

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The products of Liquid Packaging and Carton Board Unit & Beihai Mill are not treated with fluorinated substances. Fluorine containing active components (including PFOA and PFOS) that have a function as fat and water repellent are not used as raw material or intentionally added in the production of our paper and paperboard products, that's why Stora Enso Liquid Packaging and Carton Board unit and Beihai mill do not see any reason to test fluorine substances of our products.

This information is valid for the products, produced at the mills of Liquid Packaging and Carton Board Unit (i.e. Skoghall, Fors, Ingerois, Imatra) and Beihai Mill further packaging converting.

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