

PIJITF GUIDANCE

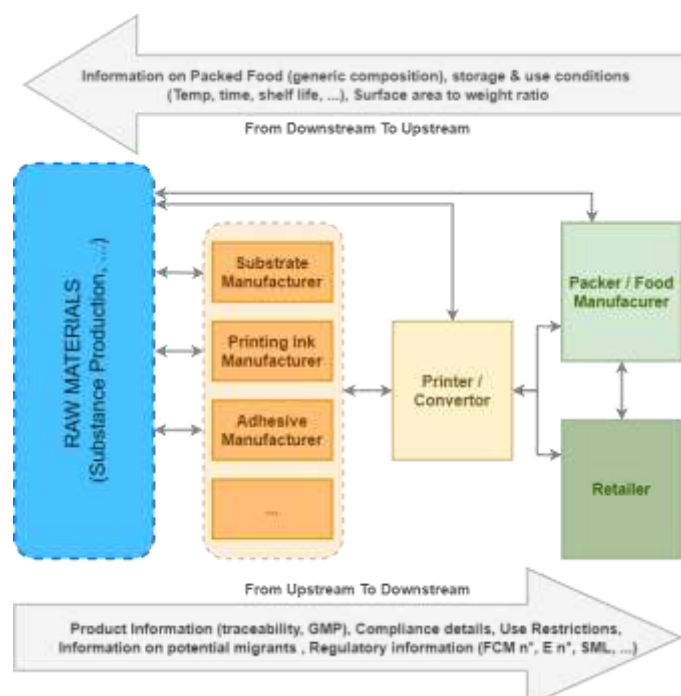
Information and Transparency in the Printed Food Packaging Supply Chain

Food packaging plays a key role in the sustainability of food systems. The printing and food packaging value chain is ready to support this transition and contribute to Climate Neutrality and Circular Economy.

To ensure the ambitions and the sustainable growth envisioned by the Farm to Fork Strategy, maintaining the effective functioning of the European Single Market and the free movement of goods and raw materials is fundamental. Among others, a precondition for this is an adequate flow of information between the players of the printed food packaging value chain.

The Packaging Inks Joint Industry Task Force (PIJITF) members have long experience and have established collaboration to strengthen the trust and improve transparency within the supply chain. The PIJITF continues its efforts to enhance transparency and improve the alignment and efficacy of B2B communication in the supply chain.

The group has identified the adequate information needed for compliance and risk evaluation of printed food contact materials (pFCMs) and the information flowing through the value chain downstream and upstream. This work is crucial to establish a common understanding of adequate information and data needs for effective risk assessment and risk management along the value chain (see diagram below).



In order for the final pFCM to be compliant with the relevant legislation, each actor in the supply chain needs to share data relevant to the compliance work and exchange information to allow further risk assessment and risk management. This interconnectivity among players has enabled the industry since many years to successfully implement internationally

recognised principles to ensure consumer protections and food safety. Likewise, industry-made assessments have contributed for better information flow to guarantee that the final printed food contact material is safe for its intended use.

It should be noted that the proposed guideline is not meant as a questionnaire to be sent to customers or suppliers. The actors of the pFCM value chain already have developed their own functioning tools, adapted to the specific position of the value chain. The guideline shall assist the printed food packaging value chain on what consists adequate information for further risk assessment and risk management and focuses on the information needed in the supply chain. It does not define the means of communication or replace business to business agreements, e. g. concerning NDAs.

Furthermore, in the FCM Inception Impact Assessment¹, the lack of resources for official controls has been highlighted. In this sense, existing communication and verification methods need to be further harmonized. We believe that working together to improve these, can contribute to better functioning of systems and assessments that consequently enhance consumer trust and support the work of the official controls.

With the proposed guidance and the PIJITF position, the packaging inks value chain would like to assist the Commission to set good practices defining what constitutes adequate information for the compliance work at each stage of the supply chain.

March 2024

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12497-Revision-of-EU-rules-on-food-contact-materials_en

List of PIJITF members:

ACE – The Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment, www.ace.be

CEPI – Confederation of European Paper Industries, www.cepi.org

CITPA – International Confederation of Paper and Board Converters, www.citpa-europe.org

ECMA – European Carton Makers Association, www.ecma.org

ESIG/ Cefic European Solvents Industry Group, www.esig.org

EuPC – European Plastics Converters Confederation, www.eupc.org

EuPIA– a sector of CEPE: European Printing Ink Association, www.eupia.org

FCA / Cefic, Food Contact Additives, <http://fca.cefic.org/>

FEFCO AISBL –European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers, www.fefco.org

FEICA – Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry, <http://www.feica.com>

FoodDrinkEurope: Confederation of the food and drink industries of the EU –
www.fooddrink europe.eu

FPE – Flexible Packaging Europe, www.flexpack-europe.org

Intergraf – European Federation for Print and Digital Communication, www.intergraf.eu

I&P Europe – Imaging and Printing Association, www.ip-europe.com

MPE – Metal Packaging Europe, <https://metalphackaging europe.org/>