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Voluntary Public

Date: 12/28/2015

GAIN Report Number: CH15082

China - Peoples Republic of

Post: Beijing

China announces standards for Food Contact Plastic Materials and Articles as WTO SPS Notification 1017

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

On November 19, 2015, China notified the WTO of the National Food Safety Standard of China announces standards for Food Contact Plastic Materials and Articles, issued by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) as SPS/N/CHN/1017. This standard applies to all kinds of food contact plastic materials and articles. This standard also applies to food contact thermo plastic elastomer materials and articles. The deadline for submission of final comments to China is January 18, 2016. The proposed date of entry is yet to be determined. Comments can be sent to China's SPS Enquiry Point at sps@aqsiq.gov.cn. The following report contains an unofficial translation of this draft measure.

General Information

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Food Contact Plastic Materials and Articles

Preface

This standard replaces GB 16332-1996 "Health Standard for Nylon Shaping Products for Food Packaging Materials", GB 9689-1988 "Health Standard for Polystyrene Shaping Products for Food Packaging", GB 17326-1998 "Health Standard for Rubber Modified Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene Forming Products for Food Container and Food Packaging Materials", GB 9688-1988 "Health Standard for Polypropylene Forming Products for Food Packaging", GB 9681-1988 "Health Standard for Polyvinyl Chloride Forming Products for Food Packaging", GB 14944-1994 "Health Standard for PVC Bottle Cap Gaskets and Granular Materials for Food Packaging", GB 9687-1988 "Health Standard for PE Forming Products for Food Packaging", GB 17327-1998 "Health Standard for Acrylonitrile-Styrene Forming Products for Food Containers and Packaging Materials", GB 14942-1994 "Health Standard for Polycarbonate Forming Products for Food Containers and Packaging Materials", GB 9690-2009 "Health Standard for Melamine-Formaldehyde Forming Products for Food Containers and Packaging Materials" and GB 13113-1991 "Health Standard for Polyethylene Terephthalate Molding Products for Food Containers and Packaging Materials".

Compared with the replaced standards, this standard has the following changes:

- Revised the name of the standard;
- Revised the raw material requirements;
- Added the general requirements;
- Revised the indexes of evaporated residue items;
- Revised the regulations of specific migration regulations
- Revised the migration test methods;
- Added the label identification requirements.

National Food Safety Standard Food Contact Plastic Materials and Articles

1 Scope

This standard applies to all kinds of food contact plastic materials and products.

This standard also applies to the food contact thermoplastic elastomer materials and products.

2 Terms and Definitions

2.1 Plastic Material

The macromolecular material in a certain shape processed under a certain temperature and pressure with one or several resins (polymer or pre-polymer) as the main structural component with or without additives or other substances added; this kind of material is in the form of plastic particles (or slices), powder or thin sheets between the resin (polymer) and plastic product, it also includes other polymer materials that need to further processing / re-molding. It is also known as plastic intermediate material

2.2 Plastic Product

The product that is formed/processed into a certain shapes and that can maintain its shape established in normal use conditions with resin or plastic material as the raw materials, with or without additives or other materials added.

2.3 Food Contact Plastic Material and Product

In the process of food production, processing, packaging, transportation, storage and use, all kinds of plastic materials and products, which have been or are expected to be in contact with food, or their components may be transferred to the food.

2.4 Thermoplastic Elastomer

The polymer that has high elastic properties of cross-linking vulcanized rubber under high temperature processing conditions, has low shear modulus under use temperature and has larger deformation under the action of stress but can fully recover from deformation as the stress is removed.

3 General Requirements

The food contact plastic materials and products shall be in accordance with the regulations of "National Standard for Food Safety - General Safety Requirements for Food Contact Materials and Products".

4 Technical Requirements

4.1 Raw Material Requirements

The resin used in food contact plastic materials and products shall be in accordance with the regulations of the "National Standards for Food Safety - Food Contact Plastic Resin" and the relevant announcement of the Health and Family Planning Commission.

4.2 Sensory Requirements

The sensory requirements shall be in accordance with the regulations in Table 1.

Table 1 Sensory Requirements

Items	Requirements
Senses	Normal color, smooth surface without bad odor, bas smell and impurities.
Soaking solution	The soaking solution obtained from migration test shall have no color, turbidity, deposition, bad odor and other sensory deteriorations.

4.3 Physical and Chemical Indexes

4.3.1 The physical and chemical indexes shall be in accordance with regulations in Table 2.

Table 2 Physical and Chemical Indexes

Items	Indexes	Inspection method
Overall migration (/mg/dm ²) ≤	10 ^a	GB 31604.8
Potassium permanganate consumption/(mg/kg) Distilled water (60°C, 2h) ≤	12	GB 31604.2
Heavy metal (at lead) /(mg/kg) 4%(v/v) acetic acid (60°C, 2h) ≤	1.2	GB 31604.9
Croaking test ^b	Negative	GB 31604.7
^a For the plastic materials and products in contact with infant food, the result shall be converted into mg/kg based on the area-volume ratio in actual application, and the limit shall be ≤ 60 mg/kg.		
^b It applies only to the products with colorant added.		

4.3.2 The specific migration, maximum residue and overall specific migration limit of the chemical substances in food contact plastic materials and products shall be in accordance with the regulations in Appendix A of "National Standards for Food Safety - Food Contact Plastic Resin".

4.4 Additives

The additives used in the food contact plastic materials and products shall be in accordance with the regulation of GB 9685.

5 Others

5.1 Migration Test

5.1.1 The migration test conditions and method selection, sample pretreatment and result presentation of the food contact plastic materials and products shall be implemented according to the regulations of GB 31604.1 and GB 5009.156.

5.1.2 The migration test of the food contact plastic with thermoplastic elastomer shall be in accordance with the provisions of the "National Standards for Food Safety - Food Contact Rubber Materials and Products".

5.2 Label Identification

5.2.1 The label identification shall be in accordance with the regulations of the "General Safety Requirements for Food Contact Materials and Products". The material shall be identified in the label, manual or attached document according to the type of resin specified in the Appendix of "National Standards for Food Safety – Food Contact Plastic Resin", and for the polymer blend, the main polymer components shall be identified.

5.2.2 Each section of the supply chain shall ensure the safe transmission of the information, and ensure the traceability of the relevant information for use of the harmful substances and restricted substances.

END OF TRANSLATION