
Press release

Paper sector, a pioneer in food safety, updates its Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) guidelines

Brussels, 1 June 2023

The newly published GMP guidelines aim to support the demand of the market and customers for increased product safety. The [document](#) builds on the achievements of a sector which has early on opted for an approach minimising contamination risks and allowing for transparent and independent assessment.

In 2010, paper and board producers gathered under Cepi, the Confederation of European Paper Industries, released two pioneering guidelines for the manufacturing of paper and board for food contact: Food Contact Guidelines and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Since then, these have become a reference for the entire paper manufacturing and food value chain, helping it to continue **a remarkable track record in preventing food safety incidents**.

The GMP guidelines were **based on the requirement of the Commission Regulation on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (EC1935/2004), and the EU Regulation on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (EC 2023/2006)** that all materials and articles intended for food contact “shall be manufactured in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice”. Because the GMP Regulation applies to all types of food contact materials and articles, there is a need for specific advice on its implementation in each manufacturing sector. Cepi’s GMP guidelines provide advice for implementation by the paper and board manufacturing industry of a set of good manufacturing practices which is compliant with that Regulation.

This is the first update of Cepi’s GMP since 2010 and benefits from the extensive experience gained by the paper and board industry, and should be read in conjunction with the also recently updated Cepi Food Contact Guidelines. Cepi’s GMP guidelines provide a roadmap to guide paper and board producers to implement a good manufacturing system for food contact materials and articles in accordance with EC 2023/2006, while serving as guidance for those auditing those systems. In addition to the provision of the GMP Regulation, Cepi’s GMP guidelines also cover the implementation of risk assessment within the GMP quality assurance system.

These updated Cepi GMP guidelines are being released in a context where the market for recyclable and bio-based food packaging solutions has been rapidly developing, in answer to **an increasing demand for sustainable products, while fossil-based alternatives are being phased-out**. The main raw materials for paper and board are naturally occurring cellulose fibres with inherent hygienic properties, making it very different from other materials being used for food contact. Another difference with other food contact materials is that paper and board manufacturing is mostly mechanical, rather than chemical, as well as being highly recyclable.

Download [Cepi’s Good Manufacturing Practice \(GMP\) guidelines for the manufacture of paper and board for food contact](#). Please note that the contents of this document are advisory and not legally binding. It is the responsibility of each company to ensure compliance with the applicable rules and these guidelines are intended to help the paper and board industry to demonstrate compliance.

Quotes by Jori Ringman, Director General Cepi, Confederation of European Paper Industries

“Good Manufacturing Practices have a primary role to play in risk management. They also serve the gradual shift to sustainable, renewable and recycled alternatives. Raw materials from renewable sources, such as those used for paper-based packaging, should be recognised as building blocks of a new, more circular economy.”

Notes to editor:

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For more information on Industry commitments, please consult

[Cepi's Sustainable Product Pledge](#),

[Cepi's Pledge to support the 3 billion trees initiative](#).

[The 4evergreen cross-industry alliance](#).

For our 2022 industry statistics, please refer to

[Cepi Preliminary Statistics 2022](#)

About Cepi:

Cepi is the European association representing the paper industry. We offer a wide range of renewable and recyclable wood-based fibre solutions to EU citizens: from packaging to textile, hygiene and tissue products, printing and graphic papers as well as speciality papers, but also bio-chemicals for food and pharmaceuticals, bio-composites and bioenergy. We are a responsible industry: 85% of our raw materials are sourced in Europe and certified as sustainable, 92% of the water we use is returned in good condition to the environment. We are the world champion in recycling at the rate of 71.4%. At the forefront of the decarbonisation and industrial transformation of our economy, we embrace digitalisation and bring 21 billion value addition to the European economy and €4.5 billion investments annually. Through its 18 national associations, Cepi gathers 490 companies operating 885 mills across Europe and directly employing more than 179,000 people.

More information about our sustainability performance [here](#).