



## Position note

# ECMA recommendation on the use of UV inks and varnishes for food packaging.

Following the alert early February on the presence of higher concentrations of 4-Methyl Benzophnone in packed food due to migration from the applied inks, ECMA, the European Carton Makers Association has been closely involved in many discussions on this issue.

Well informed by DG Sanco's Commission Services about the EFSA assessment and the intentions at Member State level, ECMA has briefed its members they should no longer use inks and varnishes containing 4-Methyl Benzophenone, Benzophenone, Hydroxybenzophenone and, if considered as dangerous, related Benzophenone alternatives for food packaging, unless it can be demonstrated that the transfer into food is below 0.6 mg per kg of food.

In view of the perceived general concern regarding photo initiators, on 12 March the ECMA Steering Committees agreed however to issue further recommendations.

The member carton makers are recommended to stop the use of UV inks and varnishes - if they have ever done so - for primary food packaging, or to stop the use of the current UV inks and varnishes and to consider a switch to alternatives, which might have a cost impact, and of which validity has been proven by a third party assessment.

The member carton makers are additionally recommended to convince the food producers and/or packers to make a common risk assessment for every food product and packaging in order to evaluate possible interaction between both.

In the meantime, ECMA has initiated a problem solving discussion within the supply chain.

## ECMA

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