



EU Consultation: Food Contact Materials, Life Science

European Association of Chemical Distributors (Fecc)

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Fecc acknowledges the consultation on the [Revision of EU rules on food contact materials](#). Fecc would like to raise the following points in this consultation:

1. The harmonisation on EU rules pertaining to food contact materials (FCMs) should be taken into perspective. Although rules at a Member State level exist, the fragmented implementation of these rules results to the reduced production and distribution of FCMs. We agree that systems must be in place to ensure a harmonised implementation of EU-wide rules and the measures should be clear and must bring pragmatism, particularly for SMEs that are in the forefront of producing and distributing these materials. Fecc welcomes the continued approach of the Commission and the national competent authorities to examine data submitted by interested business operators, provided that it is in accordance with the following premises of the articles of [Regulation \(EC\) No 1935/2004](#):

- Section 23 – ‘Community and national reference laboratories should be designated to contribute to a high quality and uniformity of analytical results.’

In order to harmonize EU rules on FCMs, the Commission must ensure that community and national reference laboratories are equipped with the proper tools and conduct the same sampling methods and quality controls between Member States.

- Section 27 – ‘It is necessary for business operators to have sufficient time to adapt to some of the requirement established by this Regulation.’

Through these legislative safeguards, Fecc requests the Commission to provide business operators a reasonable transition period for any substances that may be included in this Inception Impact Assessment (IIA).

2. Safety and circularity checks is paramount and must go hand-in-hand - To ensure business operators are complying with existing regulations, standardised methods of sampling and analysis need to be developed and fully enforced. This prevents the need for multiple testing brought about by overlapping regulations at a national and EU level. This consistency on compliance should be the case for both safety and recyclability requirements on FCMs. The industry supports the innovation opportunities that this IIA may present but in order for this to be met, Fecc requests the Commission to consider the necessary steps to ensure that products are both safe, durable and sustainable via this initiative.

3. Enforcement of existing rules must also be considered in the IIA, including third country operators. - Fecc would like to raise the following point of enhanced monitoring, pursuant to [Article 28 of Regulation 2017/625 \(the Official Controls Regulation\)](#). Fecc calls for the Commission to enhance its monitoring efforts when it comes to FCM monitoring or substance exclusion that may be proposed in this initiative.

The consultation note's proposal to pursue a model of a risk-based assessment will not work without comprehensive surveillance of third-country imports and only result in (1) the undermining of EU producers and service-providers, (2) the decrease of the EU market share and (3) unnecessary regulatory roadblocks due to internal bureaucratic delays.

As the association that represents food and food ingredient distributors, most of which are SMEs, we believe that food safety and a sound regulatory framework go hand-in hand. We would be happy to engage further with the Commission in the pursuit of sustainable, future-oriented solutions in this area.

To access the Fecc's response on the EU Commission's website, please [click here](#).