

Food contact material: traceability requirements coming into force 27 October 2006

The framework regulation on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (1935/2004) is nearly 2 years in force (since 3rd of December 2004).

For one specific article (article 17) the date of coming into force is set for 27th October 2006.

Article 17 regulates the requirements on traceability of materials and articles.

Article 17 of Regulation 1935/2004

Traceability

1. The traceability of materials and articles shall be ensured at all stages in order to facilitate control, the recall of defective products, consumer information and the attribution of responsibility.

2. With due regard to technological feasibility, business operators shall have in place systems and procedures to allow identification of the businesses from which and to which materials or articles and, where appropriate, substances or products covered by this Regulation and its implementing measures used in their manufacture are supplied. That information shall be made available to the competent authorities on demand.

3. The materials and articles which are placed on the market in the Community shall be identifiable by an appropriate system which allows their traceability by means of labelling or relevant documentation or information.

"Traceability" is defined as: the ability to trace and follow a material or article through all stages of manufacture, processing and distribution.

Manufacturers, importers and distributors where granted two years time to set up systems informing them on traceability.

This time period is nearly over. Everybody must have their traceability systems in place before 27th of October.

Throughout their global network of laboratories, SGS can provide a comprehensive range of tests for products intended to be in contact with food. Audit department can also support you for traceability. Please contact us for additional information.



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