

Food, Toy Regs and Packaging Essential Requirements Explained

Heavy Metal confusion - which certificate?

Three areas of legislation refer to heavy metal content:

- **Food Contact Regulations** set limits for the migration of heavy metals from packaging in direct contact with food.
- **Toy Safety Regulations (EN71-3)** set limits for the migration of heavy metals and other substances into human tissue, if swallowed.
- **Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations** set limits for the migration of heavy metals from packaging waste into landfill.

Why have different certificates?

Because each set of regulations has its own requirements and relies on its own test methods, which give different results. For any given sample, the measurement of heavy metal content is likely to be lowest in the food contact test and highest in the packaging waste test.

The situation is also complicated by the fact that food contact and packaging waste regulations only consider the presence of Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Lead (Pb) and Mercury (Hg), whilst toy regs also set limits for Antimony (Sb), Arsenic (As), Barium (Ba) and Selenium (Se).

Food contact tests apply directly to packaging boards that may come into contact with food. Toy and packaging waste regulations apply directly to the toy or finished carton (of which the packaging board may only be a part). Therefore, whilst a cartonboard manufacturer can obtain certificates of conformance, those relating to toy or packaging waste regulations can only be an indication of what will arise in the finished product.

What about Warren Board products?

Our products comply with both toy and packaging waste regulations. In addition, the folding boxboards and many of the white lined chipboards are suitable for direct food contact.

Our product pages provide more information about food suitability. Please log in to access product-specific certificates and statements.