



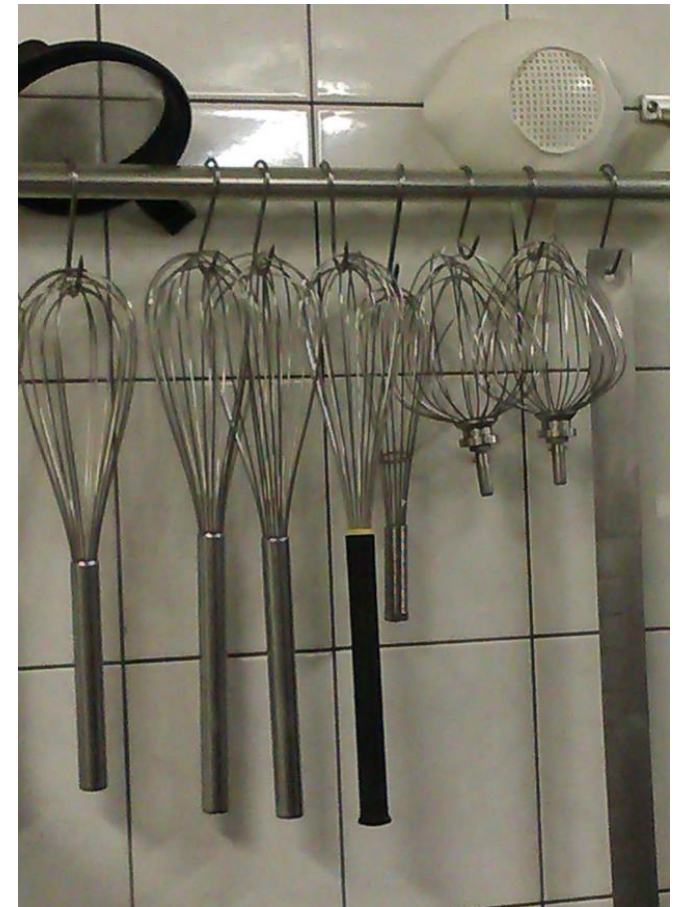
Contact Materials

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Contact materials

All equipment, surfaces and materials which have direct contact with food





Main requirements for contact materials

When used according to their intended use, food contact materials should not:

- Release their constituents into food at levels harmful to human health
- Change food composition or organoleptic characteristics in an unacceptable way

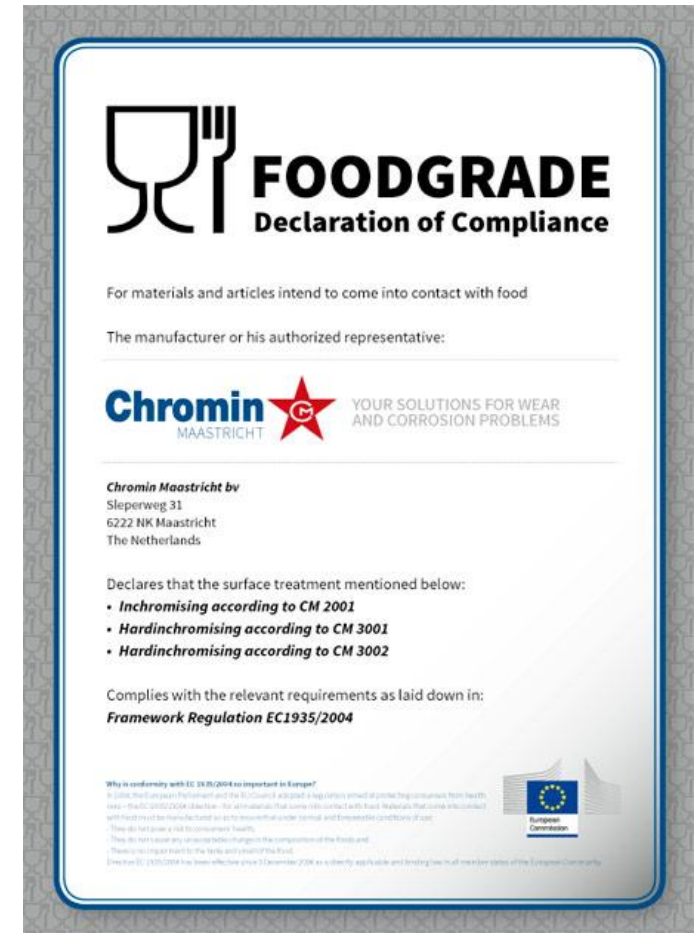
(Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004)





What is Declaration of Compliance (DOC)?

- The food business operator must be aware of using only approved and suitable food contact materials
- To ensure this one must acquire Declaration of Compliance when purchasing materials, machines and utensils
- In EU, the DOC is mandatory for food contact plastics (including recycled plastics), active and intelligent materials, ceramics and regenerated cellulose film.
- https://www.fsai.ie/uploadedFiles/Food_Businesses/Food_Contact_Materials/DoC_example.pdf



<http://www.chromin.nl/industries/Foodgrade>



What are hazards posed by contact materials?

- Migration of chemicals from food contact materials can occur. Toxic symptoms in humans are not always immediate. Accumulation of chemicals is gradual.

Examples:

- Bisphenol A or phthalates from plastics or surface materials can disturb human hormone function
- Heavy metals from ceramics, dyes or metal containers cumulate into human organs causing different symptoms
- Volatile substances from plastics, paper and carton can cause smell and taste defects into food and are also carcinogenic



High risk for migration

- Foods with high fat and/or moisture content
- Foods with long shelf life
- Foods exposed to heat in its packaging





When buying contact materials

- The food contact material must be sold as being suitable for the intended use.
- **The buyer** must be aware of the requirements that have been set for the contact materials
- **The seller** knows what purpose the material is to be used
- **The food business operator** is responsible for ensuring that the material is used correctly and in accordance with the instructions given



Traceability

- Traceability system should allow the producer to track the contact materials one step forwards and one step backwards

