

BRCGS

Global Standard for Packaging Materials Issue 6

P616: Position Statement Additional requirement for functional packaging claims

Document Scope

Food and hygiene sensitive products

Change log

Version no.	Date	Description
0.1	11/11/2020	Introduction of a new supplementary requirement in clause 3.4.3 - Proof of effectiveness of functional packaging for food and hygiene sensitive products.
0.2	27/11/2020	Revised following consultation with TAC and CBs
1	30/11/2020	Final version

Background

The Global Standard for Packaging Materials is a GFSI benchmarked standard and this adds to the value of certification for sites that have achieved certification. The GFSI benchmarking requirements have been updated to include a requirement for standards where packaging used to impart or provide a functional effect on the safety of the product shall be effective.

In addition to the requirements of clause 3.4.3, the following supplementary requirement in italics shall apply and be included within all audits commencing 1st July 2021.

<p>3.4.3</p>	<p>Where packaging for food or other hygiene-sensitive products is produced, a statement of compliance shall be maintained which enables users of the packaging to ensure compatibility between the packaging and the product with which it may be in contact.</p> <p>The statement of compliance shall be compiled and authorised by a suitably competent person. It shall contain as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature of the materials used in the manufacture of the packaging • confirmation that the packaging meets relevant legal requirements • the inclusion of any post-consumer recycled materials. <p>The statement shall identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • its date of issue and, where appropriate, its expiry date • any limitations of use of the product, and • the usable life of the packaging (where relevant). <p>The site shall review the statement of compliance at a risk-based frequency</p> <p><i>Where functional packaging for food or other hygiene-sensitive products is produced, the statement of compliance shall contain reference to documented evidence to demonstrate effectiveness or proof of effect claimed by the packaging material including extended shelf life, freshness, and temperature monitoring.</i></p>
--------------	--

Interpretation

Functional, active, intelligent, or smart packaging systems used with food and other hygiene-sensitive products such as pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. They have functions beyond passive containment of the product. They help to extend shelf life, monitor freshness, display information on safety and quality and improve convenience. For example, packaging with low oxygen transmission rate will let in less oxygen into the closed package through the polymer barrier itself. Thermochromic inks can signal temperature excess or change colour used alone or with barcodes. Radiofrequency identification chips, smart labels, are used to track and trace or record temperature history of shipments

Where such claims are made for functional packaging produced for product safety assurance or improvements, the proof of effectiveness or traceable references to it shall be documented on the statement of compliance.

The information shall include as a minimum:

- the intended use of the packaging materials
- The functional effect(s) e.g. extends shelf life by 20%
- The types of tests conducted and results
- Where appropriate, the name of the laboratory and any accreditation details

Where appropriate to the specified functional effect, the documented evidence shall reference the following tests

- Chemical, sensory and migration
- Head space analysis
- Oxygen and water transmission rates
- Shelf life trials
- Microbial leakage
- RFID performance