Food Packaging Regulation in the United States and the European Union

The regulation of food packaging has become an important topic with the development of worldwide economies and trade. Two regulatory systems have evolved in the United States and Europe. They are superficially similar but very different in actual practice.

In a comprehensive, three-part article, Jerome H. Heckman, founding partner of the Washington, DC law firm of Keller and Heckman LLP, and an important player in the establishment of the Food and Drug Administration’s Food Contact Notification System, discusses the history of the United States food packaging regulatory system and its characteristics, the history of European Union regulations and their features, and the similarities and differences of the two systems and how they can be harmonized to remove unnecessary trade barriers.