
Pre-Consultation: Proposed Food Packaging Framework

Food and Nutrition Directorate
September 2026



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Canada

Context

Current framework

- No mandatory premarket assessment
- Health Canada reviews food packaging materials submitted **voluntarily**
 - Packaging used at discretion of food manufacturers

Key issues

- Limited oversight of chemicals used in food packaging
- Greater uncertainty from increased use of recycled materials and other packaging innovations
- Limited ability to respond to health risk incidents or emerging issues

Proposed mandatory requirement: Notification of food contact materials (FCM)

Purpose

Enhanced awareness and oversight of chemicals in food packaging

How to notify?

Online form



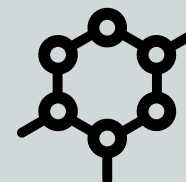
Scope

Any packaging material used in direct contact with food (including food service ware)



Information required

- Chemical composition of substances in FCM
- Conditions of use
- Expected distribution of FCM in Canada



Who should notify?

When?

How often?

TBD based on feedback

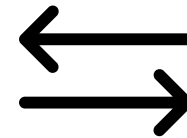


Knowledgebase

Purpose: Public repository of substances that are acceptable to be used to manufacture FCMs

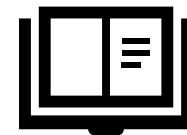
Link with mandatory notifications

- Positive match: No further action
- Negative match: Safety evaluation triggered



Contents (to be updated on ongoing basis)

- FCMs previously assessed by Health Canada
- Additional FCMs assessed under the proposed framework (voluntary submissions)
- Safety reviews from foreign regulatory authorities or other sources (TBD)



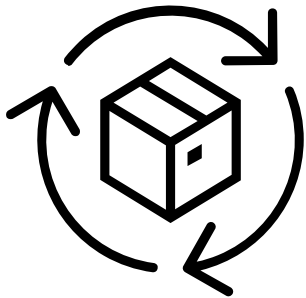
Consultation questions



1. Who along the FCM supply chain (e.g., food manufacturer/importer, FCM manufacturer/importer, retailers) is best positioned to prepare and submit notifications?
2. Do you have suggestions on the appropriate timing or frequency of a notification (e.g., prior to distribution in Canada, within 30 days of distribution)? Please explain.
3. What considerations should go into the development of a knowledgebase?
4. Should the knowledgebase be guidance-based or incorporated in regulations as a positive list with conditions that FCM must comply with?
5. We are considering a 5-year phase-in period to develop the knowledgebase. Would this be a reasonable amount of time?

Consultation questions - General information

Additional questions to help us better understand the FCM supply chain in Canada



1. For food packaging manufacturers/importers: Please provide any relevant information (e.g., volume data, supply, distribution) of the FCM you manufacture or import.
2. For food manufacturers/importers: Please provide any relevant information on your use of FCM (e.g., volume data) and your relationship with FCM manufacturers/importers (e.g., number of suppliers).

Next steps

