



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF BOTTLES AND TEATS

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Issues with compliance testing of Elastomers

WBT is aware that there are issues when testing compliance of elastomers according to Food Contact Plastics Regulation (EU) 10/2011.

Elastomers are different to plastic materials in material properties, and unlike plastic materials are cross linked liquids. As a result not all migration conditions and food simulants that are listed in Regulation (EU) 10/2011, and suitable for plastics, are also appropriate for elastomers including TPEs.

Certain TPEs can be extracted by some of the simulants thus significantly overestimating migration in real food.

For example- 50% EtOH which is a suitable simulant for milk for most plastic materials can significantly overestimate the real migration from elastomers.

Hence a number of TPEs with years of satisfactory safety record are rendered non compliant with the migration tests that are listed in Regulation (EU) 10/2011, and as a result can not be used in their current important applications.

WBT has made the European Commission aware of this matter and is working with them to find a safe and compliant solution to this problem. However, currently this issue remains unresolved.

WBT will continue to keep its members informed on further developments in this matter.