

Japan Regulates Food Contact Articles Made of Polyethylene Naphthalate (PEN)

On 8 June 2016, the Japan Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) published Notice No.245 of 2016 which amended the *Specifications and Standards for Foods, Food Additives, etc. under the Food Sanitation Law of Notice No. 370 of 1959*. The amendment shall apply to food contact articles and packaging made of mainly Polyethylene Naphthalate (PEN) that are manufactured or imported into Japan after 8 December 2016.

Food utensils, containers and packaging manufactured mainly with PEN materials should comply with the new requirements for residues after evaporation and migration of germanium in addition to the existing requirements on general plastic. Accordingly the new requirements for food contact articles made of PEN are listed below:

Material	Requirements	Limit
Polyethylene Naphthalate (PEN)	Residue after evaporation	$\leq 30 \mu\text{g/ml}$
	Migration of Germanium	$\leq 0.1 \mu\text{g/ml}$
	Cadmium content	$\leq 100 \mu\text{g/ml}$
	Consumption of potassium permanganate	$\leq 10 \mu\text{g/ml}$
	Lead Content	$\leq 100 \mu\text{g/ml}$
	Migration of heavy metals (as Lead)	$\leq 1 \mu\text{g/ml}$

Polyethylene Naphthalate (PEN) is commonly used in the manufacture of container for carbonated beverages, beer, water and other liquids.



The Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre (STC) is one of the first approved laboratories by the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan for testing to the Japan Food Sanitation Law and authorized by the Japan Toy Association for toy safety test to ST Mark in Hong Kong since 1985.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Toys and Children's Products Department at Tel: (852) 2666 1817 and 2666 1863; Fax: (852) 2663 9612 or E-mail: tcd@hkstc.org.

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