

27 January 2026

Information classification
PUBLIC

SCA Containerboard Information Sheet on Heavy Metals

Heavy metals are severely restricted in various EU legislation for example:

- EU regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH).
- EU Directive 2009/48/EC on the safety of Toys.
- EU directive 1994/62/EEC on Packaging and Packaging Waste (PPWD).
- EU regulation (EC) No. 2025/40 on Packaging and Packaging Waste (PPWR) ¹.
- EU Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (ROHS).
- BfR Recommendation XXXVI - Paper and Board intended for contact with food.

Testing for toy safety requirements

SCA Containerboard paper grades (Kraftliner, White Top Kraftliner, Eurokraft, Kraftliner WS) have been tested for the content of heavy metals in accordance with the requirements for Toys Safety set out in Directive 2009/48/EC. The testing is made in accordance with the European standard **EN 71-3** i.e., extraction with hydrochloric acid followed by AAS/ICP-AES detection according to the standard. Results see table below.

	Results (mg/kg)	Limit Category III (mg/kg)	Method
Aluminium (Al)	<1500	28130	EN 71-3
Antimony (Sb)	< 20	560	EN 71-3
Arsenic (As)	< 5	47	EN 71-3
Barium (Ba)	< 100	18750	EN 71-3
Bor (B)	<100	15000	EN 71-3
Cadmium (Cd)	< 5	17	EN 71-3
Chromium (Cr), overall content	<20	460	EN 71-3
Chromium(VI)	<0,05	0,053	EN 71-3
Cobalt	<20	130	EN 71-3
Copper	<20	7700	EN 71-3
Lead (Pb)	< 5	23	EN 71-3
Manganese	<100	15000	EN 71-3
Mercury (Hg)	< 5	94	EN 71-3
Nickel (Ni)	<100	930	EN 71-3
Selenium (Se)	< 20	460	EN 71-3
Strontium (Sr)	<1000	56000	EN 71-3
Tin (Sn)	<100	180000	EN 71-3
Organic tin	n.d.<12	12*	EN 71-3
Zink (Zn)	<100	46000	EN 71-3

* n.d.= non detectable (sum of 11 different organotin substances).

Note! The overall chromium content in the table above includes Chromium(VI) and Chromium (III) and is analysed after disintegration in hydrochloric acid.

¹ Directive 1994/62/EE is repealed effective from 12 Aug 2026. Regulation No 2025/40 starts to apply from this date.

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Testing for packaging and packaging waste requirements

The papers have been tested for total content of heavy metals in accordance with the requirements for packaging and packaging waste set out in directive 94/62/EC. Testing is made in accordance with the CR 13695-1 i.e., total disintegration followed by AAS/ICP-AES detection.

	Results	Method	Limit value*
Cadmium (Cd)	< 0.5 mg/kg	CR 13695-1	Sum Pb+Cd+Hg+Cr(VI) < 100 mg/kg
Chromium (Cr)	<5 mg/kg	CR 13695-1	Sum Pb+Cd+Hg+Cr(VI) < 100 mg/kg
Mercury (Hg)	<0.25 mg/kg	CR 13695-1	Sum Pb+Cd+Hg+Cr(VI) < 100 mg/kg
Lead (Pb)	<5 mg/kg	CR 13695-1	Sum Pb+Cd+Hg+Cr(VI) < 100 mg/kg

Note! The total amount of Chromium analysed after total disintegration is including Cr(VI)

** According to EU directive 94/62/EC. Same limit value is adopted in regulation EC 2025/40, with a reservation that the commission can lower the limit later through a delegated act.*

Testing for food packaging requirements

Furthermore, the papers have been tested for heavy metals according to the requirements set out in BfR Recommendation XXXVI for paper and board intended for food contact. The testing is made in accordance with the European standards **EN 645**, **EN 12 497** and **EN 12 498** i.e., extraction with water followed by AAS/ICP-AES detection according to the standards. Results see table below.

	Results	Method	Limit value**
Cadmium (Cd)	n.d. <0.001 mg/liter water extract	EN 645 + EN 12 498	5 µg/liter extract
Chromium (Cr)	n.d. <0.004 mg/liter water extract	EN 645 + EN 12 498	non-detectable
Lead (Pb)	n.d. <0.001 mg/liter water extract	EN 645 + EN 12 498	10 µg/liter extract

Note! The total amount of Chromium analysed in water extract is including Cr(VI).

*** According to BfR recommendation XXXVI for Cr(VI).*

The testing has been performed by a third-party accredited laboratory.

The results show that our products are in compliance with the various legal restrictions for heavy metals.

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