

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## **Detpak's update on Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in fibre-based food contact packaging**

In response to the growing industry awareness of the use of PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in some fibre-based food contact packaging, Detpak has been working to identify the use of PFAS across our supply chain, and to find and implement suitable alternatives for affected materials.

Concurrently, APCO (Australian Packaging Covenant Organization) have been developing their 'Action Plan to Phase Out PFAS in Fibre-Based Food Contact Packaging', released on 27 September 2022. The Action Plan includes the testing and phase out of the Australian manufacture and importation of **fibre-based direct food contact packaging** that contains intentionally added PFAS (defined as <100 ppm fluorine)<sup>1</sup> by 31 December 2023. The Action Plan is voluntary, however Detpak, as a responsible manufacturer and member of APCO, intends to comply with the Phase Out.

As part of the Action Plan, APCO is seeking testing results for all fibre-based food contact products/materials at the end of February 2023. This is a voluntary submission targeted at manufacturers and importers, assisting APCO to identify high risk packaging segments in the market. Therefore, Detpak will be reporting results to APCO, and there is no requirement for customers to submit a report themselves. If you do decide to submit PFAS reporting to APCO, contact your Detpak representative who can gather testing results for you, noting that some results may not be immediately available.

Detpak are in the process of conducting an extensive evaluation of our material range for PFAS by working with our suppliers to obtain testing results. The information collected so far indicates that the majority of our categories of fibre-based food contact products and materials **do not** contain intentionally added PFAS<sup>1</sup>. This aligns with our industry knowledge that PFAS are unlikely to be added to materials that are not designed for very high levels of grease or solvent resistance.

The table below shows our broad material categories and corresponding fluorine testing results.

Material Type	Measured Total Fluorine Values <sup>3</sup> (Parts per million, ppm)
Virgin Papers	<100 ppm
Recycled Papers	<100 ppm
Waxed Wraps	<100 ppm
Siliconised Papers	<100 ppm
Polymer Coated Papers	<100 ppm
Virgin Boards	<100 ppm
Recycled Boards	<100 ppm
Grease Resistant Boards	<100 ppm
Cups and Bowl Boards	<100 ppm
Napkins	<100 ppm
Straws	<100 ppm

<sup>3</sup>The provided values indicate a range of test results for each category of materials, inclusive of similar materials and/or products to yours. < indicates that Detpak has not received total fluorine results to date greater than or equal to the reported result within those categories of primary raw materials.

The only materials identified in Detpak's supply chain to contain levels of PFAS above 100 ppm fluorine are grease resistant papers (e.g. fry bags) and moulded fibre products (e.g. sugarcane bagasse). Most of these material types currently in market use added PFAS to achieve high levels of grease resistance. Detpak has already validated new alternative materials for these affected products and is working on transitioning out of raw materials with added PFAS. In the coming months, affected customers will be updated on our new PFAS Free<sup>2</sup> materials and given a choice to transition ahead of or in-line with phase-out timelines.

If you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact your local Detpak representative.

Regards,



**Tom Lunn**

**Group General Manager – Innovation & Sustainability**

# DETMOLD GROUP

125 Port Road Hindmarsh SA 5007 AUSTRALIA

Phone +61 8 8348 3200 Fax +61 8 8348 3224

ABN 85 007 527 013

Detmold Packaging Pty Ltd trading as Detmold Group

[www.detmoldgroup.com](http://www.detmoldgroup.com)

<sup>1</sup>Intentionally added PFAS is defined by APCO in their Action Plan to Phase Out PFAS in Fibre-Based Food Contact Packaging, 2022 as items with measured concentrations greater than 100 parts per million (ppm) of total fluorine, total organic fluorine or extractable organic fluorine.

<sup>2</sup>"PFAS Free" means "No Intentionally Added PFAS", as defined by APCO.

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