

# PFAS USED IN FOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS ARE SUBJECT TO STRICT REGULATION BY FDA



## SAFETY OF FOOD PACKAGING SAFEGUARDED BY ROBUST & TRANSPARENT REGULATION

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in food packaging are regulated as **food additives** by FDA
  - Packaging materials that contact food – including coatings and other chemical components of food wrappers, cartons, containers, etc. – are regulated as “**food additives**” under Section 201(s) of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). FDA uses the term “**food contact substance**” to describe food additives from packaging materials.
- Before a food contact substance can be sold or distributed in commerce it must be reviewed by FDA, and under the statute, FDA can only provide authorization for a food contact substance if the agency concludes that there is sufficient scientific data to demonstrate that the substance is **safe for its intended use** in packaging.



## FDA REQUIRES EXTENSIVE SCIENTIFIC DATA UPFRONT

- In order to demonstrate that a food contact substance is safe for its intended use, FDA requires submission of extensive upfront test data and scientific information regarding:
  - The chemical composition of the food contact substance, including all impurities and potential degradation products;
  - The levels of impurities that may be released from the food contact substance under intended cooking conditions and the potential dietary concentrations of those substances;
  - Toxicity data (and any other relevant health and safety data) on all impurities, degradation products and other components of the food contact substance.



## ONGOING SAFETY REVIEW AND MONITORING BY FDA

FDA can withdraw its acceptance of a food contact substance at any time if available data no longer demonstrate that the food contact substance is safe for its intended use. If FDA withdraws its approval, the food contact substance can no longer be distributed in commerce.



**FluoroCouncil**  
Global Industry Council  
for FluoroTechnology

Jessica Bowman  
202-249-6737

[jessica\\_bowman@fluorocouncil.org](mailto:jessica_bowman@fluorocouncil.org)