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A Chain of Changes

In this column, we will check in with several topics, and as it happens, the topics flow from one to the next like a chain of crucial information for packagers.

Author — [Eric Greenberg](#)

Mar 31st, 2021

1. An organization called the Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse has been known since the 1990s as the source of an influential model state law that put limits on four heavy metals in packaging (lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium). Though only adopted in 19 U.S. states, the model law's prohibition on intentional addition, and a total limit of 100 ppm of the four heavy metals, have become a worldwide fixture in product stewardship and guarantee documentation for packaging.

Eric Greenberg, Attorney-at-Law,
Packaging World Contributing Editor

Now the TPCCH has updated its model legislation, most notably by adding “the class of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and ortho-phthalates as regulated chemicals.” (For more on the changes, go to [pwgo.to/6052](https://www.packworld.com/design/protective-transport-packaging/article/21343056/a-chain-of-changes-crucial-information-for-packagers) and [pwgo.to/6053](https://www.packworld.com/design/protective-transport-packaging/article/21343056/a-chain-of-changes-crucial-information-for-packagers)).

Under the newly changed law, a package or packaging component would be prohibited if “PFAS has been intentionally introduced during manufacturing or distribution in any amount,” and “There shall be no detectable PFAS in any package or packaging component.” How exactly that standard can be met is unclear (see below re baby food).

The new model law also would prohibit sale or distribution of a package or of packaging components containing intentionally added phthalates, and the incidental levels of them couldn't exceed 100 ppm by weight. The revised law also sets general safety standards for chemicals used to replace the limited ones.

The impact of this change won't be fully known until individual states adopt these new provisions, but the change could represent important new burdens.

2. Speaking of heavy metals, a Congressional committee issued a report in February alleging that many manufactured baby foods contain heavy metals as impurities, and that the levels were dangerous. The report said that neither manufacturers nor FDA were doing enough to limit the levels.

In response, FDA said that "Toxic elements, such as arsenic and lead are present in the environment and may enter the food supply through soil, water or air," so they can't be "completely avoided" in food, even organic food.

It further noted, "The FDA has been actively working on this issue using a risk-based approach to prioritize and target the agency's efforts. Consumers should know that FDA scientists routinely monitor levels of toxic elements in baby foods," and others. When toxic elements "present a potential health concern, the FDA takes steps to reduce levels, such as using science to set action levels, making data public, and working with industry on identifying effective mitigation strategies." (All you folks who think "regulation" is always bad: *This* is regulation. Do you want FDA to stop doing this?)

To me, the real headline is that FDA addressed directly the original sin of public discussions of debates about safety, namely, misunderstanding of degrees of risk.

It's so important, but often is not part of debates over undesirable substances in food and other products. But here FDA noted first that ubiquitous substances cannot be fully kept out of food, but second and importantly, that the risk related to those exposures is low and things can be done to keep it low, all because of the concept that very, very small amounts of substances that are a danger at higher levels, are not a danger.

Different people can disagree about whether FDA is trying hard enough to limit exposures to dangerous substances, but it's good that at least FDA is evaluating the riskiness of the risk, instead of simply assuming any level of exposure is dangerous.

3. Speaking of risk, remember COVID-19? Packaging companies took careful note early in the pandemic when officials announced that it's unlikely one could catch the virus from contact with packaging of foods or other articles, even though studies show the virus can live on some packaging surfaces for some number of hours.

Well, in a recent statement, government agencies say it's still true that "there is no credible evidence of food or food packaging associated with or as a likely source of viral transmission" of COVID-19. In February, FDA and other agencies issued a joint statement saying their own data and data from around the world indicate it's "highly unlikely" that packaging or food would spread the virus.

They also explained, "Given that the number of virus particles that could be theoretically picked up by touching a surface would be very small and the amount needed for infection via oral inhalation would be very high, the chances of infection by touching the surface of food packaging or eating food is considered to be extremely low."

4. Speaking of getting sick, or not, from stuff in or on food or food packaging, there's a move afoot to add sesame to the list of "major allergens" whose presence would be legally required to be listed on food labels. People with food allergies need that information to avoid serious illness, and ever since 2004, there's been a federal law that required disclosures on food labels of major allergens, whether the allergens consumers might be exposed to are in food or even food packaging, unless exempted. The current major allergens are milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans, and failures of labels to disclose the presence of these is a significant public health threat and a chief reason for food recalls. (That's "regulation," too, just saying.)

Well, the U.S. Senate recently passed a bill that would add sesame to the list of major allergens. If made into law, this new requirement would kick in starting in 2023.

Count on it happening: The bill passed the Senate unanimously, and the House passed a similar bill last year.

Eric Greenberg can be reached at greenberg@efg-law.com. Or visit his firm's Web site at www.ericfgreenbergpc.com.

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Protective/transport packaging

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Mar 31st, 2021

E-commerce

Subscription D2C Supplement Brand Makes Sustainable Impression at Unboxing

A new-to-science fatty acid supplement promises to improve longevity. Seraphina Therapeutics created a sustainability-minded D2C packaging and unboxing experience to align with and amplify the discovery.

[Matt Reynolds](#)

Mar 12th, 2021

Protective/transport packaging

Anti-Corrosion Film

Daubert Cromwell's ClearPak 5000 poly packaging film is designed for protecting aluminum, steel, and other metals during storage and transit.

[Daubert Cromwell](#)

Feb 12th, 2021

Protective/transport packaging

CRP Cap for Cannabis Beverages

PakTech's PakLock is a certified CRP cap designed for THC beverages. It fits on 8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz, and 19.2 oz 202-260 aluminum can formats.

[PakTech](#)

Jan 12th, 2021

E-commerce

Amazon future of E-Commerce Packaging

See the PACK EXPO Connects 2020 Sunrise Breakfast Kickoff with Dr. Kim Houchens, Director, Customer Packaging Experience at Amazon as she takes you through all the touches your e-commerce package has to survive!

Nov 20th, 2020

Sponsored

Check out The Cobot Spot from Universal Robots

Looking for automation solutions for packaging and palletizing? This is your destination for all things cobot. Whether it's webinars, video case studies or product information, you'll find it all in this one spot.

Aug 31st, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

Transportation Testing for Corrugated Packaging

Georgia-Pacific's Innovations Institute features package design services and its Transportation Testing Lab, where corrugated packaging 'is put through the gauntlet.'

[Anne Marie Mohan](#)

Nov 11th, 2020

Supplier News

Rondo-Pak Expands Capacity at Two Facilities

Rondo-Pak expanded the capacity at its primary facilities in Camden, N.J. and San Juan, Puerto Rico, with the addition of die-cutting and folder-gluer machinery.

[Rondo-Pak, Inc.](#)

Nov 9th, 2020

PEC 2020

Tri-Seal to Present Live Demos at PACK EXPO Connects

Tri-Seal, a Tekni-Plex business, will presents four live demos about closure liners and related equipment during PACK EXPO Connects.

[Tri-Seal, a Tekni-Plex Co.](#)

Oct 27th, 2020

PEC 2020

Orbis to Showcase Sustainable Packaging Solutions at PACK EXPO Connects

Virtual event to feature live demos and webinars with Orbis experts.

[Orbis Corp.](#)

Oct 20th, 2020

PEC 2020

Cascades to Launch Packaging Solutions at PACK EXPO Connects

Cascades will introduce four new eco-friendly packaging solution brands at PACK EXPO Connects.

[Cascades Inc.](#)

Oct 19th, 2020

Sponsored

Recycle Ready Pouches: How to be Sustainable and Efficient

The Ares 400-SUP runs recycle ready PE, laminated films and bio-films with ease and low scrap rates. It's compact, efficient, easy-to-operate and quick changeover design is perfect for recycle ready pouches.

Apr 1st, 2021

Home

Cells Remain Upright in Floating Spherical Shipper

Fragile 3D microtissues for drug development and testing must remain upright in transit. This sphere-on-water system takes cues from boats while keeping products in temperature range.

[Keren Sookne](#)

Sep 24th, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

What do PFAS Actions Tell us About State

Regulatory Officials?

Last month we looked at some recent FDA action against perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, aka PFAS, some of which are used in grease-resistant coatings in paper and ... action as well.

[Eric Greenberg](#)

Sep 22nd, 2020

Supplier News

Foam Fabricators Announces Strategic Investment in Rational Packaging

Foam Fabricators Inc. a designer and manufacturer of custom protective packaging solutions, announced a strategic investment in Rational Packaging, LLC, a designer and ... packaging components.

[Foam Fabricators Inc.](#)

Sep 21st, 2020

Supplier News

HP Introduces Molded Fiber Tooling Solution

HP unveils an innovative and environmentally-friendly tooling solution for molded fiber manufacturers that includes its new HP Molded Fiber Advanced Tooling technology.

[HP Inc.](#)

Sep 18th, 2020

Supplier News

Gertex Solutions Acquires Impak Packaging Systems

Gertex Solutions Inc. announced the acquisition of Toronto-based Impak Packaging Systems Inc.

[Gertex Solutions Inc.](#)

Sep 11th, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

What Do PFAS Actions Tell Us About Food Contact Substances Industry?

The PFAS story keeps developing, and isn't over yet.

[Eric Greenberg](#)

Aug 25th, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

Hartmann North America Announces Second Phase of Plant Expansion

[Hartmann North America](#)

Aug 21st, 2020

[Home](#)

ISTA Pharma Committee Virtual Roundtable Discussions: Aug. 11 and 25

As a follow up to the open meeting held in June, the ISTA Pharma Committee will host two roundtable discussions in August to discuss in-depth the top two topics of interest from the industry survey.

[International Safe Transit Association \(ISTA\)](#)

Aug 5th, 2020

MORE IN PROTECTIVE/TRANSPORT PACKAGING

Protective/transport packaging

Innovative, Sustainable Strapping Band

TEUFELBERGER developed a new strapping solution especially for the printing and packaging industry, as well as the mailing and logistics industry. It is not only easy to operate, easy on the environment but also easy to handle.

[TEUFELBERGER Fiber Rope Co.](#)

Jul 1st, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

Beer Cans' Premium Foil Lidding Adds Billboard Space While Appealing to Post-COVID Consumer

Romanian lager Albacher doesn't mention the pandemic specifically, but the timing of its new foil lidding, which adds billboard space and ensures a clean beer can surface, is ... consumer base.

[Matt Reynolds](#)

Jun 29th, 2020

Supplier News

Pregis Donates Insulated Packaging to Chicago Food Pantry

Pregis recently donated more than 5,000 Penguin Pack insulated box liners to Lakeview Pantry, Chicago's largest food pantry.

[Pregis](#)

Jun 19th, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

Nestable Pallets

Cabka's new NestRack nestable pallets, available in HDPE and ACM, are suitable for high-bay racking, double stacking, and roller conveyors. They are available with an open or closed deck.

[CABKA North America, Inc.](#)

Mar 4th, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

Custom Printed Tape

Create custom printed tape with the new Print Wiz hand-held tape dispenser that creates printed tape as needed.

[QSPAC](#)

Feb 1st, 2020

Home

Dover to Acquire Systech International, a Leading Provider of Serialization, Traceability and Anti-Counterfeiting Solutions

Enhances Dover's Product Identification and Traceability Solutions Portfolio

[Systech](#)

Jan 7th, 2020

Protective/transport packaging

Embossed Induction Seal Closure Liners

Tri-Seal, a Tekni-Plex business, launches the Luxe® seal two-piece, embossed induction seal closure liners that provide an embossed alternative to traditional printed liners.

[Tri-Seal, a Tekni-Plex Co.](#)

Oct 23rd, 2019

Protective/transport packaging

Wax Replacement Protective Packaging

DS Smith's Greencoat is a coated, water-resistant packaging solution that provides the same performance characteristics as wax-coated boxes but is 100% recyclable.

[Natalie Craig](#)

Sep 26th, 2019

Protective/transport packaging

Jenny Craig Trims the Excess from its Meal Delivery Packaging

New delivery option allows consumers to receive one-week

shipments of food in a 30% smaller package fitted with compostable insulation panels made from corn.

[Anne Marie Mohan](#)

Sep 15th, 2019

Materials & containers

Greif: Barrier protection technology

The GCube Shield technology from Greif is an advanced barrier protection technology used in its intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) to reduce the permeation of gases through the polyethylene.

[Greif, Inc.](#)

Aug 22nd, 2019



Protective/transport packaging

Meat delivery service uses cornstarch-based insulated coolers

NIKU Farms uses bio-based, insulated coolers made from cornstarch that are backyard compostable and biodegradable to ship its farm-to-door meat subscription boxes in Canada.

[Anne Marie Mohan](#)

Aug 9th, 2019

Protective/transport packaging

Tri-Seal: Coextruded foamed closure liners

Tri-Seal, a Tekni-Plex business adds F-224, F-419M, and F-830 coextruded foamed closure liners to its existing line.

[Tri-Seal, a Tekni-Plex Co.](#)

Jul 24th, 2019

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