

1. This is an unofficial translation. Only the German version is binding.

LIII. Absorber pads and packagings with absorbing function, in which absorbent materials based on cross-linked polyacrylates are used, for foodstuffs

As of 01.06.2009

If the following recommendation is observed, it may be assumed that the duty of care required in the manufacture, treatment and placing on the market of absorber pads and packagings, in which absorbent materials based on cross-linked polyacrylates are used, for foodstuffs has been complied with.

1. The materials used in the manufacture like plastics, non-woven materials, and glues have to comply with the legal requirements for food contact applicable to them.
2. Only cellulose fibres complying with Recommendation XXXVI/1 may be used in the absorber pads.
3. Only the following substances may be used in the manufacture of the polyacrylates:
 - a) Monomer: Acrylic acid
The quantity of acrylic acid monomer in the polyacrylate absorbent material as a rule amounts to 300 ppm according to the state of the art.
 - b) Production aids: according to Recommendation XIV
Cross-linker for the production of polyacrylates are not subject of this recommendation. Responsibility for their application lies solely with the manufacturer.
4. The absorber pads resp. packaging systems must be built in such a way that prevents the escape of super-absorber particles by construction.
5. The absorbing capacity of absorber pads resp. packaging systems must be assessed that way that the amount of liquids released by the packaged foodstuffs is completely absorbed.¹
6. The manufacturer of absorber pads resp. packaging systems is obliged to supply the information needed by the user to choose the appropriate product size in order to ensure the absorption of the complete quantity of liquid released during the intended use.

¹ Method for the determination of the absorbing capacity: see Bundesgesundheitsblatt 46 (2003) 362 (61st Communication on the testing of plastics)