

# FDA Sampling of Food Contact Paper/Packaging for PFAS

In 2024, the [Food and Drug Administration](#)<sup>1</sup> (FDA) is conducting a surveillance sampling assignment to monitor the presence of [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#)<sup>2</sup> (PFAS) in food contact paper/packaging.

## Background

Four manufacturers hold the majority market share for 11 food contact substances containing PFAS. FDA received a letter from one of these companies in August 2019, noting they had stopped manufacture and sale of these products for food contact applications. The remaining three companies provided a [voluntary agreement](#)<sup>3</sup> to a 3-year phase-out to stop their sales of these products by the end of 2023. The phase-out is now completed but it is anticipated to take up to 18 months to exhaust existing stock of these products in the U.S. market. The FDA **does not anticipate any regulatory action** related to this surveillance assignment monitoring market disappearance.

## What does the FDA plan to sample?

The FDA plans to collect 150 samples of coated food contact papers, non-coated food contact paper, and molded fiber food contact articles and packaging. Specifically, the agency will collect samples (e.g., molded fiber trays, paper liners, and food contact paper packaging or paperboard) before they come into contact with food. The food products of interest include butter or margarine paper/wrap, microwave popcorn bags, frozen entrée molded fiber trays/boards, boxed fatty shelf stable food boxes/cartons (e.g., cracker box, bouillon cube box). For this assignment, we are not sampling plastic or wax coated materials (e.g., milk cartons) or infant or toddler-specific food items (e.g., infant formula, rice cereal).

## What will the FDA be testing products for?

Samples will be tested for the presence of specific food contact substances that may contain PFAS in food contact paper/packaging. The lab method used will **only** include qualitative analysis (not quantitative analysis) to determine if PFAS is in the grease-proofing agent of these products. This assignment is not testing for PFAS typically found in food or the environment due to contamination.

## Where will the FDA collect the samples?

The FDA plans to collect samples during routine inspections of domestic food manufacturers.

## How long will the assignment last?

The FDA anticipates that this assignment will take about seven months and end in September 2024.

## What enforcement does the FDA plan to take based on sample results?

None

## Will the FDA share the test results?

The FDA will share updates on the market disappearance of PFAS in food contact paper/packaging based on our surveillance of this phase-out.

## What is the FDA doing to minimize the impact of its sampling on commerce?

The agency is sensitive to the concerns of industry. This assignment should not impact industry, as firms are still authorized to use these products and **do not need to hold product**.

## Contact Information

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/food/environmental-contaminants-food/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-announces-voluntary-agreement-manufacturers-phase-out-certain-short-chain-pfas-used-food>