

Enamels - Release from enameled objects in contact with foodstuffs - Test methods and permitted limits EN ISO 4531 published

ISO 4531 was updated to ISO4531:2022

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products - Information

May 2022

As reported in our TÜV Rheinland LGA Products - Information of 11/2018, ISO 4531 was published in 2018 as a standard with test methods and requirements tailored to enameled food contact materials. In order to take into account the advancements in research and technology, the standard was revised and republished in April as ISO 4531:2022.

In addition to formal changes, two content-related adjustments were made:

- The release limit for aluminum was lowered from 5 mg/l test solution to 1 mg/l test solution. This decision was taken on the basis of the toxicologically derived limit of 1 mg/kg food or food simulant in Regulation (EU) No 10/2011.

- The three required release tests should be carried out directly one after the other, if possible on one day. This is to avoid undesired corrosion, which might occur during overnight storage. This is how it is already handled in our labs.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

We recommend that you use the reports of previous tests to check whether the updated limit of 1 mg/l is safely observed. The usual reporting limit in our test reports is 0.2 mg/l for aluminum. Our evaluations show that for approx. 20% of the articles tested so far, the measured values are in the range of 1 - 5 mg/l and thus no longer meet the requirements.

Please contact us if there is a need for further clarification.

Please also note that this standard is to be applied after publication without any further transition period.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

As part of the revision of the Ceramics Directive 84/500/EEC, it cannot be ruled out that enamel will be included in the scope of a new regulation together with ceramics and glass. However, the end of the legislative process is not foreseeable at present, so that ISO 4531 represents a sensible alternative until then.

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Further information on current legal changes can also be found on our homepage at www.tuv.com or <https://www.tuv.com/regulations-and-standards/en/>.

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