

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

Guidelines for Evaluating Sanitary Papers¹

Sanitary papers are commodities in the sense of § 2, Para. 6, No. of the Food and Feed Code (Lebensmittel- und Futtermittelgesetzbuch (LFGB)). They include paper fibre products such as tissue paper, sanitary crepe (compare DIN 6730) and aerodynamically formed non-wovens (compare DIN 61210) used as paper handkerchiefs, cosmetic tissues, paper towels, toilet paper and the like, which come into direct contact with the human body. These commodities must be suitable for their intended purpose and, in compliance with § 30 LFGB, must not be manufactured or treated in such a way that their intended or predictable use could be harmful to human health. On the basis of responsible manufacturing practices and their duty of care, manufacturers and those responsible for bringing these commodities onto the market take full responsibility for ensuring that they are not harmful to health.

The BfR has drawn up a list of the materials currently used in the manufacture of sanitary papers and worked out a number of criteria, which reflect current scientific and technological developments, in the interests of precautionary consumer protection. These criteria can be used to evaluate corresponding products. However, the components of sanitary papers have not been individually tested and evaluated by the BfR.

These guidelines do not apply to articles intended to have more than just temporary contact with the human body (§ 2, Para. 6, No. 6 of LFGB). Also they do not apply to pre-moistened sanitary products².

Fibres

Natural and synthetic fibres based on cellulose

Fibres of synthetic high polymers

Wood pulp

Regenerated fibres from recycled paper, but not from paper or paperboard from sorting plants for general waste.

Criteria

Extract from finished products should contain max. 1 mg formaldehyde and max. 1.5 mg glyoxal per dm².

Finished products should contain no more than 2 mg polychlorinated biphenyls per kg (total PCB).

As slimicides, only those listed in Recommendation XXXVI "Paper and paperboard (including cardboard) as food-contact materials", should be used, in compliance with the restrictions laid down therein.

¹ Bundesgesundheitsbl. 39 (1996) 123, which supersedes "Criteria for Evaluating Sanitary papers", published in Bundesgesundheitsbl. 37 (1994) 432.

² The impregnating liquids used in the manufacture of such products are subject to the Cosmetics Regulation (Kosmetik-Verordnung). The impregnated materials must comply with Recommendation XXXVI "Paper and paperboard (including cardboard) as food-contact materials".

In testing sanitary papers for the presence of anti-microbial components using the inhibition zone test, no growth inhibition of particular germs should be observed. However, this does not apply for paper towels.³

In testing the fastness of colorants and optical brighteners, a value of at least 4 should be reached on the grey scale. This does not apply for paper hand towels.

Azo dyes which through the cleavage of one or more azo groups can form one of the amines listed in Annex 1, No 7 (§ 3) of the Commodities Regulation, must not be used.

Testing is conducted using the following methods of analysis.

Methods of analysis

Formaldehyde	Amtliche Sammlung von Untersuchungsverfahren nach § 64 LFGB, method K 84.00 - 7(EG)
Glyoxal	Untersuchung von Papieren, Kartons und Pappen für den Lebensmittelkontakt (Testing of paper and board as food-contact materials), Erich Goltze Verlag Method No. 4.3.2.2.
Polychlorinated biphenyls	Amtliche Sammlung von Untersuchungsverfahren nach § 64 LFGB, method B 80.56 - 1
Inhibition zone test	Untersuchung von Papieren, Kartons und Pappen für den Lebensmittelkontakt (Testing of paper and paperboard as food-contact materials), Erich Goltze Verlag Method No. 4.2.3.
Slimicides	Untersuchung von Papieren, Kartons und Pappen für den Lebensmittelkontakt (testing of paper and paperboard as food-contact materials), Erich Goltze Verlag Methods under No. 4.3.2.6.
Fastness of colorants	DIN EN 646 "Determination of colour fastness of dyed paper and board" Method B (short duration contact), testing with olive oil is not necessary
Fastness of optical brighteners	DIN EN 648 "Determination of the fastness of fluorescent whitened paper and board" Method B(short duration contact), testing with olive oil is not necessary
Azo dyes	Amtliche Sammlung von Untersuchungsverfahren nach §64 LFGB, method B 82.02 - 2

³ Only substances listed as preservatives in the Cosmetics Regulation (Kosmetik-Verordnung) should be used in the microbiocidal treatment of paper towels.