



AMERIPEN[®]

CHEMICAL RESTRICTIONS

Understanding the Landscape of Chemical Restrictions for Packaging in the U.S.

What Are Chemical Restrictions?

Chemical restrictions are policies that limit or prohibit the use of certain substances in packaging, often focusing on food-contact materials. These laws are commonly referred to as “chemicals of concern” policies or “toxics in packaging” laws.

Current areas of focus include PFAS, limiting heavy metals, and addressing bisphenols, phthalates, and other substances of concern.

While the intent is similar across states, the scope and definitions of restricted substances can vary by state. Of particular note is the varied use of language regarding “intentionally added” chemicals, allowable thresholds, and absolute thresholds, which may be challenging, especially when using certain recycled materials.

Why This Matters

Chemical restrictions are expanding as states respond to increasing attention on material safety and environmental impact.

This momentum is being driven by:

- Heightened focus on health concerns with chemicals in food, and therefore in food-contact packaging
- Increased scrutiny of environmental contamination from regulators and stakeholders
- Consumer demand for safer, sustainable packaging
- Ongoing research and evolving definitions of “chemicals of concern.”

As a result, companies may see continued expansion in both the number of substances under review and the scope of policies being introduced.

How It May Impact Your Business

Chemical restrictions may influence packaging design, material selection, and sourcing decisions, including:

- Potential changes to and limitations of packaging materials or formulations
- Shifts in supplier relationships or material availability
- Impacts on packaging performance depending on alternatives
- Increased need to test and track material composition across packaging systems

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What Organizations Are Evaluating

As chemical restrictions continue to evolve, organizations may need to evaluate:

- Where restricted substances may be present in their packaging
- How definitions of “chemicals of concern” vary across states
- What alternatives may be available for specific materials or applications
- How supplier and material transparency support decision-making

These considerations can vary significantly across states, contributing to a fragmented policy environment for the packaging value chain.

Where Are Chemical Restrictions Today?

Chemical restrictions are currently in place in select states, with additional legislation under consideration.



The map highlights where restrictions are currently in effect. Other states are expected in the future, reflecting a growing, evolving policy landscape.

■ Today

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Go Deeper on Chemical Restrictions

Learn more about AMERIPEN membership and gain access to more in-depth resources at ameripen.org.

Understanding how chemical restrictions differ across states—and how definitions continue to evolve—requires deeper visibility into policy details and implementation.

AMERIPEN members have access to:

- State-by-state tracking of proposed chemical restrictions
- Ongoing updates as legislation and regulations develop
- Insights into, and potential influence on, policy development.