

M&S

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MARKS & SPENCER P1 - PACKAGING POLICY

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**Aim:** The aim of this document is to outline the packaging policy.

**Scope:** The scope of this document is for all packaging materials across the Foods Business Unit.

**Marks and Spencer aims to provide customers with safe food in attractive packaging that is cost effective. All packaging systems must be minimal; provide tamper evidence; and meet Marks and Spencer Plan A Commitments.**

It is the responsibility of the food suppliers to ensure that packaging used for Marks & Spencer food products complies with all relevant legislation, in addition to Marks & Spencer Codes of Practice, guidelines and reference documents where appropriate.

All packaging must be sourced from suppliers who are cost effective, innovative and technically competent. UK Packaging suppliers must be accredited to the BRC/IOP 'Hygiene Standard for Packaging Suppliers'. Overseas Packaging suppliers should be accredited to the BRC or a local equivalent standard. This standard must be communicated to the Packaging Team.

Printed packaging must be sourced from a supplier that is on the 'Approved Printed Packaging Supplier List'. Food suppliers wishing to use a packaging supplier that is not on the list must first agree alternative suppliers with a member of the senior packaging team at Marks & Spencer. Please see M&S COP C1 – Code of Practice for Production of Printed Packaging for more information on this process.

In addition to this it is the responsibility of the food manufacturers supplying product to Marks & Spencer to audit the hygiene standards of those suppliers manufacturing packaging that is in intimate or direct contact with food. It is the food supplier's responsibility to hold the relevant accreditation documents for review by M&S or through accredited M&S Auditors.

It is Marks & Spencer policy that minimal packaging must be used to ensure the protection of products during transit, promotion of food on display and optimum performance during customer use. All packs must include an integral tamper evident system.

All Packaging must be designed to optimise recyclability or disposal options for the end consumer. All plastic packaging items should be manufactured from PET, PE or PP only. Single use PS packaging is not to be used and Hardware/reusable PS packaging is to be phased out by April 2015 in line with Plan A Commitment 12.5.

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All packaging must comply with the Environment Policy statement as outlined in the 'Quality Management System'. As part of Marks & Spencer Environmental Policy, from January 2003 no plastic packaging is to be manufactured from PVC.

While PVC is banned for use in M&S foods packaging, PVdC may be used where it is proven that no alternative exists. Applications where it is known that there are no alternatives that provide the same functionality as PVdC at the time of writing are:

- Vacuum and/or shrink bags for meat joints or cuts. i.e. leg of lamb in vacuum bag
- Processing bags for use in the cooking of meat in a food factory i.e. cooking bags for ham production
- As a heat seal and barrier in cellulose based films i.e. confectionery wrappers or lidding materials

The use of PVdC should be strictly controlled and migration certification kept by food suppliers on-site. This certification should show that specific and overall migration limits of chemicals from the packaging are below legislated limits and within compliance of the M&S Chemical Policy for Packaging. Food suppliers should also continue to investigate alternatives to PVdC on the assumption that it will become legislated against within the regions and product categories that M&S trade in.

M&S has made a public commitment to only source wood that is FSC certified, recycled or otherwise protects forests and communities. This reflects M&S desire to promote sustainable forest management within transparent wood and pulp supply chains, whilst encouraging the use of recycled and reclaimed wood.

Cartonboard and Paper based packaging must be virgin FSC Chain of Custody Certified, or where approved by the M&S Packaging Team, recycled content of at least 50% recycled content for non direct-food applications. Where these options are unavailable we will approve by exception sources of cartonboard that are sourced from other schemes where we determine that the source protects forests and communities\*. We will exclude companies known to be associated with illegal harvesting or destructive forestry practices from our supply chains\*.

(\* Lists of currently acceptable schemes and unacceptable companies can be provided by the M&S Commercial and Environmental Packaging Manager or Plan A team).

Cartonboard and paper used for direct or intimate food contact applications must always be virgin board. No printing is allowed in direct contact with food due to chemical migration risks. Where printed packaging is required to be in the same space as food where migration could occur, it is vital that food suppliers ensure that their packaging is manufactured in accordance with M&S C1 – Code of Practice for Printed Packaging and M&S G5 – Guidelines for Reverse Printing. Recycled board will only be approved for use where there is proof that a functional barrier is used which removes the risk of any migration of potentially unknown substances within the cartonboard, migrating into the food in higher than legislated amounts.

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The relevant Packaging Specification information must be entered into FIND prior to the product launch and/or on change of supplier to ensure that the food supplier has satisfied the Packaging (Essential Requirements) legislation and that M&S can complete their Packaging Producer Obligations (formerly Green Dot) using this information.

The packaging section of the product file in FIND must include a detailed specification; supply base information including the base material manufacturing site; and reference to certificates of conformity to all relevant European Legislation and regional international legislation where products are sold through our international stores.

Packaging aimed at children should be safe and meet the requirements of the Guidelines for the 'Assessment of Child Safety Risks in Packaging and Hardware'.

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