



English transcript HPV DOCUMENT 20 MARCH 2020 (non-edited)

Corona virus - threats to the supply chain of packaging for food and pharmaceutical products and requirements for maintaining security of supply

Date: 20 March 2020

We demand:

- Transport and sales packaging (made of paper / cardboard and plastic) and its raw materials and intermediate products for food and pharmaceutical products are to be classified as "integral components and system-relevant products in connection with measures to contain the corona pandemic".
- The supply chains of transport and sales packaging and their raw materials and precursors for food and pharmaceutical products must be protected and exempted from the restrictions associated with measures on the cross-border movement of goods. At national borders, appropriate measures and processes for the priority handling of such products should be established ("Priority / Green Lanes").
- Measures are to be taken to protect and ensure the supply chain security of transport and sales packaging for food and pharmaceutical products with required raw materials, operating materials and auxiliary materials.
- In the event of curfews, exemptions must be provided for the employees of manufacturers and suppliers of transport and sales packaging for food and pharmaceutical products.

Safety in the supply of food and pharmaceutical products to the population is systemically relevant in the current corona crisis.

Maintaining the supply chains for food and pharmaceutical products is therefore essential to overcome the crisis and must not be jeopardized by other measures to contain the corona pandemic.

Supporting functioning food and pharmaceutical supply chains must therefore be a political priority.

In the food and pharmaceutical supply chain, however, it is only transport and sales packaging that enables these goods to be available right through to the end consumer and ensures that shelf life is maximised. The raw materials and intermediate products used to manufacture packaging are essentially paper and board, plastics and adhesives, as well as printing inks and varnishes, which must be used to print the packaging in order to provide information about the contents of the packaging and the use of the product.

The packaging is thus an integral part of the supply security of the population.

In this respect, we demand from politicians that transport and sales packaging (made of paper / cardboard and plastic) for packaging food and pharmaceutical products be classified as "integral components and system-relevant products in connection with measures to contain the corona pandemic" or that "critical services" be treated as equivalent to "critical services" in the context of § 4 "Sector Nutrition" and § 6 "Sector Health" of the Ordinance for the Determination of Critical Infrastructures under the BSI Act. This expectation on the part of our industries is in line with the analogous demand of the Employers' Association for Food and Pleasure (ANG), the Federal Association of the German Food Industry (BVE) and the German Food Association "Coronavirus



outbreak - effects on the German food industry and demands to maintain production" to the Federal Government.

However, for transport and sales packaging for packaging food and pharmaceutical products, production is or can be increasingly disrupted by:

1. **Restriction of the cross-border movement of goods**
2. **Changes in the consumption behaviour of private end users are leading to a shortage of important printing and cleaning chemicals.**
3. **Possible curfews**

Comments on the individual points

1. restriction of the cross-border movement of goods

The increased introduction of national border controls in the Schengen area as part of the fight against the COVID 19 outbreak in Europe is hindering or preventing the effective supply of raw materials and intermediate products for the production of transport and sales packaging and of transport and sales packaging to pharmaceutical and food manufacturers.

The recently introduced national border controls within the Schengen area represent a disruption of the European supply chains for food and pharmaceutical products. It is reported from several European countries that logistics companies are refusing to accept cross-border orders due to long delays at borders.

Moreover, logistics company employees are already refusing to travel to areas with high restrictions. This is based on the concern that in such a case they will be placed under precautionary quarantine in these regions and not be allowed to return.

We also appeal for assurances to the transport and haulage industry that drivers will be allowed to return to their starting point in any case. This applies to both national and European transport.

2. Changes in the consumer behaviour of private end users are leading to a shortage of important printing and cleaning chemicals.

For the manufacture of printing inks or the printing of transport and sales packaging for food and pharmaceutical products and to maintain the necessary hygiene in the production of these, certain solvents (ethanol, propanol, isopropanol) are required for production purposes.

The supply of such solvent products is currently causing bottlenecks for packaging manufacturers. The trigger is the exorbitant increase in demand for disinfectants based on the same raw materials as some packaging inks and printing aids.

For the manufacturers of transport and sales packaging for food and pharmaceutical products, however, it is essential to ensure the supply of raw materials, operating materials and auxiliary materials required for production.

We therefore appeal to the political institutions to take measures to protect and guarantee the supply security of the supply chain of transport and sales packaging with the necessary raw, operating and auxiliary materials.



3. possible curfews

If general curfews were to be enforced in Germany, this would very quickly prevent manufacturers of packaging for food and pharmaceutical products from providing packaging materials for these essential markets and supply chains.

In such a case, exemptions must be provided for the employees of manufacturers and suppliers of transport and sales packaging for food and pharmaceutical products.

This appeal to the national political institutions is accompanied by a similar initiative of the European associations of the paper and board converting industry, which have addressed a "Statement from the European paper and board converting industry" to the EU Commission with regard to its current "Guidelines for Border Management" (Annex).

Signing associations:

- Fachverband Faltschachtel-Industrie e.V. (FFI)
- Fachverband Kartonverpackungen für flüssige Nahrungsmittel e.V. (FKN)
- Fachvereinigung Hartpapierwaren und Rundgefäße e.V. (FHR)
- Gemeinschaft Papiersackindustrie e.V. (GemPSI)
- Hauptverband Papier- und Kunststoffverarbeitung e.V. (HPV)
- Industrieverband Papier- und Folienverpackung e.V. (IPV)
- Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e.V. (IK)
- Verband der deutschen Lack- und Druckfarbenindustrie e.V. (VdL)
- Verband der Hersteller selbstklebender Etiketten und Schmalbahnconverter e.V. (VskE)
- Verband der Wellpappen-Industrie e.V. (VDW)
- Verband Deutscher Papierfabriken e.V. (VDP)
- Verband Vollpappe-Kartonagen e.V. (VVK)
- Vereinigung der Arbeitgeberverbände der Deutschen Papierindustrie e. V. (VAP)
- Wirtschaftsverband Papierverarbeitung e.V. (WPV)

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