

**§1745. Sales prohibition; rules; safer alternatives to priority food contact chemicals**

**1. Authority.** The board may adopt rules prohibiting the manufacture, sale or distribution in the State of a food package containing a priority food contact chemical in an amount greater than a de minimis level if the board finds, after consideration of information filed under section 1744 and other relevant information submitted to or obtained by the board, that:

- A. Distribution of the food package directly or indirectly exposes consumers to the priority food contact chemical; and [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- B. One or more safer alternatives to the priority food contact chemical are available at a comparable cost. [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

If there are several available safer alternatives to a priority food contact chemical, the board may prohibit the sale of a food package that does not contain the safer alternative that is least toxic to human health or least harmful to the environment.

A rule adopted pursuant to this subsection must specify the effective date of the prohibition, which may not be sooner than 2 years after notice of the proposed rule is published as required under Title 5, section 8053, subsection 5.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

**2. Alternatives assessment; presumptions.** For the purpose of determining whether a safer alternative is available under subsection 1, paragraph B, the board may, in the absence of persuasive evidence to the contrary:

- A. Presume that an alternative is a safer alternative if the alternative does not satisfy the criteria under section 1742, subsection 1, paragraph A; [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- B. Presume that a safer alternative is available if the sale of the food package containing the priority food contact chemical has been banned by another state within the United States based on the availability of a safer alternative; and [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- C. Presume that a safer alternative is available if the alternative is sold in the United States. [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

**3. Implementation.** No later than 180 days prior to the effective date of a prohibition adopted pursuant to subsection 1, the manufacturer or distributor of a food package that contains the priority food contact chemical and that is subject to the prohibition at the time of adoption shall file a compliance plan with the commissioner or seek a waiver under subsection 5. A compliance plan must:

- A. Identify the food package that contains the priority food contact chemical; [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- B. Specify whether compliance will be achieved by discontinuing the sale of the food package in the State or by substituting a safer alternative in the food package; and [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- C. If compliance is achieved by substitution of a safer alternative in the food package, identify the safer alternative and the timetable for substitution. [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

**4. Responsibility.** The manufacturer or distributor of a food package that contains a priority food contact chemical shall notify persons that offer the food package for sale or distribution in the State of the requirements of this chapter.

[PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

**5. Waiver for specific uses.** The manufacturer or distributor of a food package that contains a priority food contact chemical and that is subject to a prohibition adopted pursuant to subsection 1 may apply to the commissioner for a waiver for one or more specific uses of the priority food contact chemical. The waiver application must, at a minimum:

- A. Identify the specific use or uses of the food package for which the waiver is sought; [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- B. Identify the alternatives considered for substitution of the priority food contact chemical; [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- C. Explain the basis for concluding that the use of an alternative is not feasible; and [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]
- D. Identify the steps that have and will be taken to minimize the use of the priority food contact chemical. [PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

The commissioner may grant a waiver with or without conditions upon finding that there is a need for the food package in which the priority food contact chemical is used and there are no technically or economically feasible alternatives for the use of that chemical in the food package. A waiver may be granted for a term not to exceed 5 years and may be renewed for one or more additional 5-year terms upon written application demonstrating that technically or economically feasible alternatives remain unavailable. The commissioner shall deny or grant a waiver request within 60 days after receipt of a completed waiver application.

[PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

**6. Petitions.** If rulemaking to prohibit the sale of a food package that contains a priority food contact chemical is initiated by petition under Title 5, section 8055, the department shall consider the information submitted in support of the petition but is not obligated to conduct a search of other sources of information on the chemical or its uses. The petitioner bears the burden of demonstrating that the criteria under subsection 1 for adoption of rules are met.

[PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 277, §8 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.