

Teppfa position regarding Drinking water quality

Clean drinking water is a vital and scarce resource requiring the best protection on its way from the source to the consumer.

Therefore, the Teppfa objective regarding plastics in contact with drinking water is to achieve an optimum consumer protection by ensuring a high and consistent level of drinking water quality. Teppfa members are committed to contribute at a maximum to this target.

Plastic pipe systems are used by water supply companies for transporting water right to the home. Inside the home, they are used to transport water to kitchen and bathroom taps, showers, baths, washing machines etc.

Over the last 50 years, plastic pipes have gained popularity and are today the preferred material for drinking water supply in many countries. Plastic pipe systems used for the supply and distribution of drinking water are mostly made from PVC, C-PVC, PE, PP, PB, PEX and PE-RT.

To be used in drinking water supply and distribution, all plastic piping systems, need to comply with very strict and legal requirements related to human health criteria, applying detailed assessment procedures.

In the approval procedures in European countries, the test for Taste&Odour is the first and basic requirement for the approval of materials for drinking water application. This means that all legally approved materials for drinking water application in the market have met the stringent requirements of the Taste&Odour test.

Many countries are using a so-called “Positive List” (PL) where all chemical substances used in the plastic piping system are listed and that are not harming human health in case those substances should migrate into the drinking water. Provided the defined limit values are not exceeded. These PL limits are established with high safety factors. Suppliers of materials for drinking water distribution, have to meet these strict requirements. So legally approved plastic materials for drinking water application are classified as not harming human health with respect to listed substances of the Positive List. In several EU countries, various tests are used to secure the highest quality level regarding the potential migration of substances into the drinking water.

It can be concluded from long term experience in use and from the application of modern analytical techniques that legally approved plastic pipes do not negatively affect the quality of drinking water, and thus contribute strongly to the safe supply for human consumption

Brussels, 10-10-2007
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