

Communication 033/2026

16 June 2026

Call for the submission of data for the re-evaluation of peroxides in the BfR recommendation on food contact materials

In the BfR recommendations on food contact materials, numerous peroxides are listed, and the assessment of these substances is, in most cases, no longer up to date. The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is therefore now reassessing these substances.

Interested companies are invited to support the project by providing their data.

Peroxides for which the assessment cannot be updated will be removed from the recommendations on 31 May 2029.

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is initiating a cross-material re-evaluation of peroxides in the BfR recommendation on food contact materials. By carrying out this simultaneous re-evaluation of peroxides for use in various materials, the BfR is pursuing a new approach as a pilot project. The background to this is that a single applicant cannot provide all the necessary data. The BfR is therefore asking each stakeholder to contribute the data at their disposal. The BfR acts as the coordinating body and, using the information received from various companies, compiles a data set for risk assessment for each individual substance.

Initially, the BfR is conducting an assessment of peroxides used as cross-linking agents, as – unlike initiators and catalysts – the amounts used are generally higher. These peroxides include the substances listed in the table below:

CAS No.	Name
94-36-0	Benzoyl peroxide
80-43-3	Dicumyl peroxide
3457-61-2	tert-Butyl cumyl peroxide
78-63-7	2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(tert-butylperoxy)hexane
895-85-2	Di-(4-methylbenzoyl) peroxide
2167-23-9	2,2-Bis-(tert-butylperoxy)butane
110-05-4	Di-tert-butyl peroxide
2212-81-9	1,3-Bis(tert-butylperoxyisopropyl)benzene

1068-27-5	2,5-Dimethyl-2,5-di-tert-butylperoxyhex-3-ene
25155-25-3	Bis(tert-butylperoxyisopropyl)benzene
105-74-8	Lauroyl peroxide
614-45-9	tert-Butyl perbenzoate

Where substances could not be assessed again due to a deficiency of data, these substances will be removed from the recommendations as of 31 May 2029; this applies to all uses of the peroxides mentioned.

The BfR therefore asks manufacturers and users of peroxides to submit information and analytical data with the aim of answering the following questions:

- Which peroxides are still in use and which are not?
- What contaminations are present?
- What degradation products are formed?
- Are these the same for all relevant materials/applications? What factors play a role?
- What amounts of peroxides and degradation or reaction products are present in the various materials?
- In what amounts do peroxides and degradation or reaction products migrate from the various materials into food (or food simulants)?

The data submitted will be treated as confidential by the BfR. Companies will receive individual feedback. At set intervals, there will be closed-door meetings for the contributing stakeholders to discuss progress and identify any missing data.

The BfR will conduct an evaluation of which analytical/toxicological data still needs to be submitted for the assessment. With regard to the general requirements for analytical and toxicological data, the BfR refers to the guidance document on the safety assessment of substances used in the manufacture of food contact materials (<https://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/349/guideline-for-the-safety-assessment-of-substances-for-the-manufacture-of-food-contact-materials-and-articles.pdf>).

All the peroxides mentioned above – regardless of whether they are used as cross-linking agents or initiators – are subject to a three-year deadline for re-evaluation in the recommendations. In the first year, data on use and analysis are to be collected; in the second year, the plan is to complete the collection of toxicological data so that, in the third year, the risk assessment and the BfR's recommendations can be updated accordingly.

For further information, stakeholders should contact fcmbfr@bfr.bund.de.

In addition, further peroxides are to be re-evaluated in the BfR recommendation with a view to publishing a comprehensive recommendation on catalysts and initiators. Stakeholders are therefore advised to take up important peroxides not featured in the above-mentioned list in this pilot project for a cross- assessment of materials.

Should the list of peroxides to be subject to assessment be expanded, this will be announced on the BfR website (<https://empfehlungen.bfr.bund.de/info>).

Further information on the BfR website regarding recommendations for food contact materials

BfR recommendations on materials intended to come into contact with food

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/service/datenbanken/bfr-empfehlungen-zu-materialien-fuer-den-lebensmittelkontakt/>

The BfR Commission on Consumer Goods

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/ueber-uns/einrichtungen-am-bfr/bfr-kommissionen/kommission-fuer-bedarfsgegenstaende/#c1155>

Health risk assessment of materials in contact with food

<https://www.bfr.bund.de/en/product-safety/health-assessment-of-food-contact-materials/>

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH). It protects people's health preventively in the fields of public health and veterinary public health. The BfR provides advice to the Federal Government as well as the Federal States ('Laender') on questions related to food, feed, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics closely related to its assessment tasks.

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