

*Workshop on Safety and
Legislative Aspects of
Food Contact Materials
(FCMs)
December 2010*

In the context of addressing current market access issues that are TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) & packaging related, a workshop on “Safety and Legislative Aspects of Food Contact Materials” was held by MEFOSA (Middle East Food Safety Associates) on the 16th and 17th of December 2010 at the LibanPack- Packaging Development- offices.

This workshop covered TBT & Packaging concerns through different interventions and MEFOSA had the pleasure of

welcoming Dr Gordon Robertson, a food packaging consultant, author and trainer who covered food contact materials and the latest safety and legislative issues and updates.

For further information or for the presentations please visit our website www.mefosa.com

The Workshop's sessions. . .

Minister Adel Cortas (ex-Minister of Agriculture) presided the Official opening session by sponsors represented by Mr. George Nasrawi (Association of Lebanese Industrialists and Syndicate of Lebanese Food Industries), Ms Soha Atallah (LibanPack), & Mr. Nabil Gemayel (Gemayel Freres), Mr. Atef Idriss (MEFOSA) tackled some TBT & packaging concerns through some MENA case studies related to packaging's non conformities and the different national and regional impediments that hinder local SME's market access. In the same session, Ms Caren Jabbour (MEFOSA) introduced TBT issues in packaging and labeling along with MEFOSA's activities, offerings and technologies to assure safe packaging and safe food. Ms Jana Majzoub (LibanPack) also presented opportunities for increasing exports with innovative food packaging solutions that can render foods safer.



The afternoon session was lead by Dr Gordon Robertson and presented the food contact material requirements in general including overall and specific migration limits emphasizing on the differences between the EU and USA approach to FMCs.

On the second day, Ms Zuha Sakr (USAID Project) presented the World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and its implications on Packaging of Food Products under the support for



Lebanon's accession to the World Trade Organization program. The sessions continued with Dr Gordon's interventions on BADGE in can lacquers and BPA in plastics followed by the presentation of current issues on plasticizers and printing inks. The final presentation tackled current issues in recycled paper and board packaging and Dr Gordon's concluded by sharing some useful informational sites and references.

The Workshop's aim...

The aim of this workshop was essentially to address food processors,

industries and regulators comply with food contact material legislation and restrictions and increase export and market access by reducing rejections due to non-compliance of packaging materials.

Through understanding the requirements, the regulations and current issues on FMCs, all industries working in the food area will increase opportunities of export and will avoid non conformities that will endanger market access, products quality and customers health!

Thanking for their support and sponsorship the following institutes:



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