

This is an unofficial translation. Only the German version is binding.

Guideline for the Evaluation of Commodities Made of High Polymers for Use at Temperatures of up to 150 °C, Particularly in Microwave Ovens¹

This guideline for the evaluation applies to commodities, made of high polymers, in the sense of § 2 (6) No. 1 of the Food and Feed Code (LFGB) which are intended for use at elevated temperatures of up to 150 °C (particularly in microwave ovens, but without a grill) for thawing, heating and cooking food.

The following kinds of commodities are meant:

- cooking utensils for repeated use
- plate and dish covers for repeated use
- disposable packaging for single use
- disposable films for single use

The commodities must meet the following requirements:

1. The commodities should comply with all statutory requirements relating to food, and should be suitable for their intended purpose.
2.
 - a) The commodities should be provided (labelled) with information about the extent to which they are suitable for heating food in microwave and conventional ovens. The information can be illustrated using pictograms² which should be explained in an accompanying text in compliance with No. 3. below.
 - b) Single-use commodities should be clearly labelled: “to be used only once”, or words to that effect.
 - c) Commodities intended for repeated use should be provided with instructions indicating any restrictions on their use for certain types of food or under certain conditions of heating. The instructions must be clearly understandable.
 - d) In the case of cooking utensils intended for repeated use, the instructions for use are to be placed on the commodities in accordance with a) and e). The instructions can also be placed on the utensil’s packaging.
In the case of other articles, the instructions for use are to be fixed to the article itself or to its packaging.
 - e) The instructions should be durable, clearly visible and easily read and understood.
3. Instructions for use
Manufacturers are required to provide their products with clear and easily understood instructions for their proper use. They should give clear information relating to the permissible period and degree of heating that the product may be subjected to, as well as explaining any pictograms that are used. They should make clear that disregarding the instructions may lead to overheating of the plastic material and have a harmful effect on the food being prepared. It is particularly important to point out the product’s non-suitability for use with a grill.
In addition, for utensils intended for repeated use, the manufacturer should recommend that they be simply washed prior to first use, or instructions should be provided for a special cleaning procedure.

¹ Bundesgesundhbl. **34** (1991) 76

² There are plans to standardise pictograms.

4. Methods for testing such commodities made from high polymers are published, as a basis for their evaluation, in the 51th Communication of Bundesgesundheitsbl. **34** (1991) 76.