

English Version

## Paper and board - Guidance on the application of Term 2.2 "Prohibited materials" of EN 643:2014

Papiers et cartons - Recommandations relatives à  
l'application du terme 2.2 "Matériaux interdits" de  
l'EN 643:2014

Papier und Pappe - Leitfaden zur Anwendung des  
Begriffs 2.2 unzulässige Materialien in EN 643:2014

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## European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 17830:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 172 “Pulp, paper and board”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

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## Introduction

Clause 5.2 of EN 643:2014 excludes “prohibited materials” as defined in Clause 2.2 without providing any kind of tolerance. This is an important quality requirement to avoid any hazard for safety, health and environment as well as to make clear that paper and board for recycling is a quality material and not a channel to dispose of any refuse.

Clause 2.2 of EN 643:2014 defines as prohibited material “any materials which represent a hazard for health, safety and environment, such as medical waste, contaminated products of personal hygiene, hazardous waste, organic waste including foodstuffs, bitumen, toxic powders and similar”. It can be interpreted that this list is par lance and that products of the mentioned groups are meant, disregarding whether they are “waste” or not. This guidance document addresses two topics related to this definition of prohibited materials, i.e. the presence of foodstuff and products of personal hygiene.

This document is intended to assist the users of EN 643 to more clearly understand what is meant by the terms “prohibited materials” and which materials might be limited accepted in paper and board for recycling.

## 1 Scope

This document provides guidance on the interpretation of Clause 2.2 “prohibited materials” of EN 643:2014 and provides definitions and examples to help the users to meet EN 643 requirements. It does not add to, subtract from, or in any way modify the requirements of the EN 643 standard. This document does not prescribe mandatory approaches to implementation.

This document does not modify Clause 5.2 of EN 643.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 643:2014, *Paper and board - European list of standard grades of paper and board for recycling*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **food contact materials and articles**

paper and board or paper and board products which in their finished state: (a) are intended to be brought into contact with food; or (b) are already in contact with food and were intended for that purpose; or (c) can reasonably be expected to be brought into contact with food or to transfer their constituents to food under normal or foreseeable conditions of use

[SOURCE: “Food contact guidelines for the compliance of paper & board materials and articles” published by CEPI et al. in 2019 (modified)]

### 3.2

#### **hand towel**

tissue product intended for wiping and drying hands

[SOURCE: EN ISO 12625-1:2019, 3.43.1]

## 4 General principle

Food waste is clearly indicated as prohibited material in EN 643:2014, 2.2.

Concerns have been raised regarding the presence and quantity of residual food due to the use of paper packaging or other articles intended or expected to come in contact with food (e.g. food-to-go packaging, napkins and wrappings). Although, experience has shown that several grades of paper for recycling unavoidably contain visible traces of foodstuff.

Used products of personal hygiene can be contaminated with human secretions. Therefore, they are prohibited in paper for recycling. This document provides guidance where there is a need of clarification.

(Many consumers can be not fully aware about materials which shouldn't be in paper for recycling. It remains the task of municipalities and of collectors to provide proper information and education and to