

## **Recycled Plastics in Food Packaging**

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There is an emphasis throughout the United States on increasing the use of post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials, including plastic. FDA is involved when industry proposes to use recycled polymeric materials (usually originating from used food packaging) to make new food packaging. FDA's main safety concerns with the use of PCR plastic materials in food contact articles are: 1) that incidental contaminants from the collection process of the PCR material and the prior use or misuse of the original packaging may appear in the food contact article and 2) that substances not authorized for food contact use may be incorporated into the new food contact article. For more than 30 years, FDA has been evaluating voluntary submissions on the ability of a recycling process to produce PCR plastic of a suitable purity for food contact applications. This presentation will provide an overview of FDA's current views on the use of recycled plastics in food packaging, the source control and testing data needed to demonstrate that a recycling process is likely to produce a recycled material of suitable purity for its intended use, and some of the challenges we face.