



# **A retailer's perspective on managing hazardous chemicals in food packaging and other products**

Food Packaging Forum

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Coop Denmark



# About Coop Danmark A/S

Coop is Denmark's largest retail enterprise and is owned by its members. Coop Danmark operates the chains Kquickly, SuperBrugsen, Dagli'Brugsen, LokalBrugsen, Irma, fakta, fakta Q, coop.dk and Irma.dk. We have 1,7 million members.

Together with the independent consumer cooperatives, the organisation has some 40.000 employees.

We have a very high focus on responsibility, CSR and social compliance, and work together with our suppliers to meet our requirements.

**We have around 4000 products in private labels**

**Kquickly**

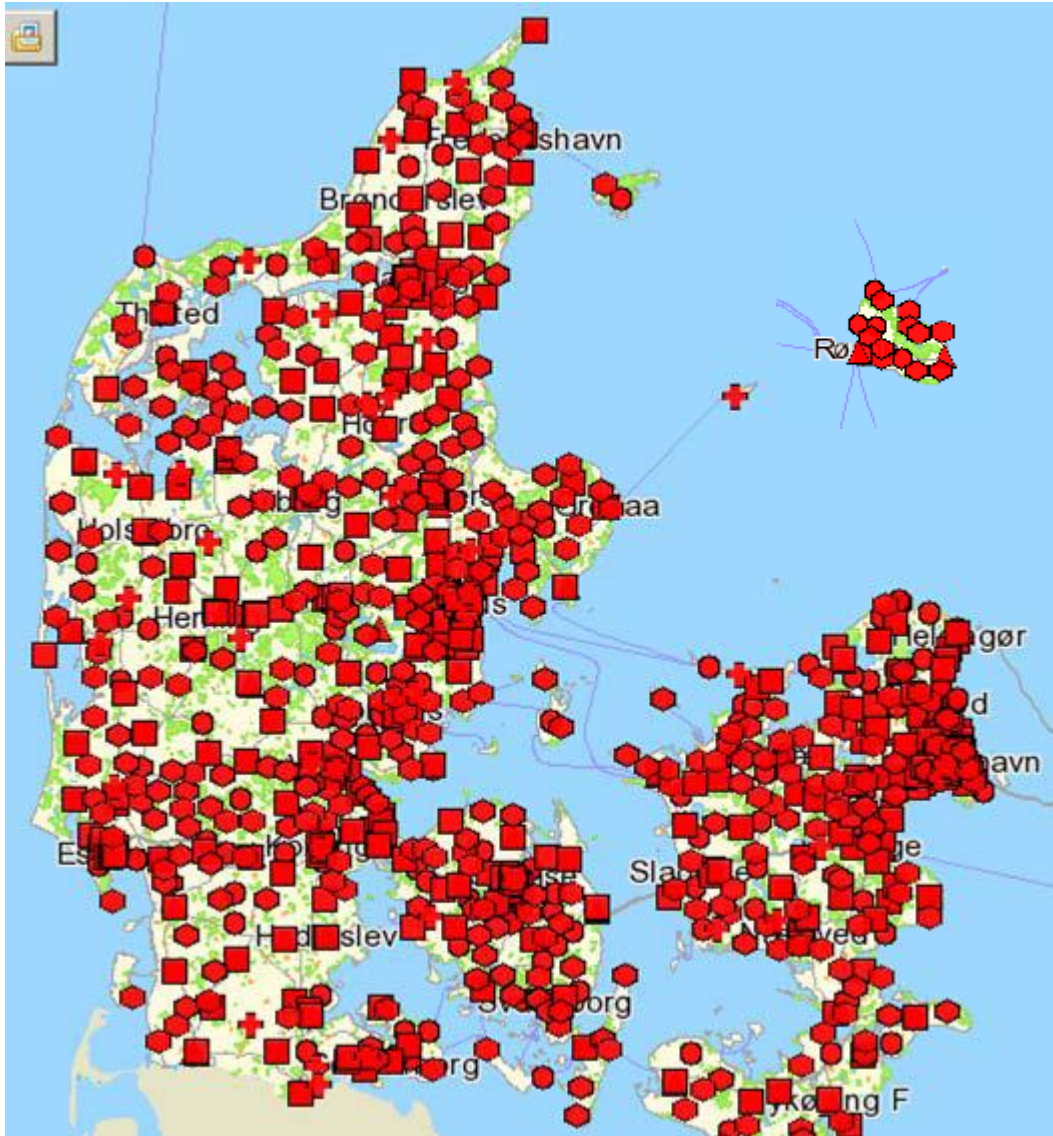
**Super  
Brugsen**

**Dagli' Brugsen**  
**Lokal Brugsen**

**fakta** **Q**  
**fakta**

**Irma**  
**Irma.dk**  
Indkøb leveret med et smil

**coop.dk**  
Dine butikker på nettet



Coop  
hypermarkets,  
supermarkets  
and discount  
stores cover the  
entire country.

1200 shops all  
together

# What to do when legislation do not cover risk – examples for Coops ban over decades

- 1975 MINI RISK: Probably first hypoallergenic brand in the world.
- 1991: Ban of PVC in all packaging.
- 1991: Ban of chlorine bleaching of textiles and paper
- 1994: Ban optical brighteners and EDTA / NTA in laundry detergents
- 1995: ban all allergenic preservatives and selected fragrances.
- 1997: Irma chain stop the sale of the detergent bleach
- 2003: Ban of PVC in selected product groups, such as office supplies, textiles, bags and shoes.

**2004: First mover: ban all substances in cosmetics and toys that are suspected of being endocrine disruptors.**

**2005: Ban of the antibacterial agent triclosan, which is used in eg toothpaste, deodorants and hand soaps. Ban also branded**

- 2005: Ban of all fragrances in light, and requirements for sodtest of all light.
- 2008: Ban of all Candidate List Substances from the EU list of specific harmful substances. It is today at 169 environmental hazardous substances.

**2009: Ban all harmful phthalates (plasticizers). The list is currently at 16 phthalates.**

**2010: Ban BPA in baby feeding bottles**

- 2010: No biocides in consumer products
- 2012: No use of nano particles and micro-plastics in personal care
- 2014: Coop stops pesticides sold in all stores.

**2014: Ban on all fluorinated substances in food contact materials**

- 2014: Ban of the allergenic preservative Methylisothiazolone (MI) in branded goods and fragrance allergens
- 2014: Irma to stop selling fabric softeners

**2015: Coop stops sales of microwave popcorn due. Harmful fluorinated substances in packaging.**

2015: Coop introduces the world's first fluorine free microwave popcorn.

**2015: Ban BPA in thermal paper**

**2016: Ban BPA: Änglamark cans are free of the endocrine disruptor Bisphenol A.**

- 2016: All detergents in Coop's own brands are Swan labeled, ie also discount products.
- 2016-2017: Ban fluoride in textile, **no endocrine disrupting UV filters** and MI in branded goods



# Food packaging full of EDC's

(endocrine disruption chemicals)



**Food contact materials - legislation does not cover the risk today. This is hard to understand why – especially for PFAS**

Risk chemicals:

- Perfluorinated compounds (PFC's)
- Bisphenoles
- Mineral oils (next step but difficult)



# Coops ban of all PFAS's



In September 2014: ban PFAS's  
in all private labels.

Ban covers a lot of goods →

- Textiles and footwear
- cosmetics
- Home textiles
- Food contact materials
- Packaging for fast food and fresh bread

**Last product missing :**

**Microwave popcorn: Sales ban  
May 2015!**

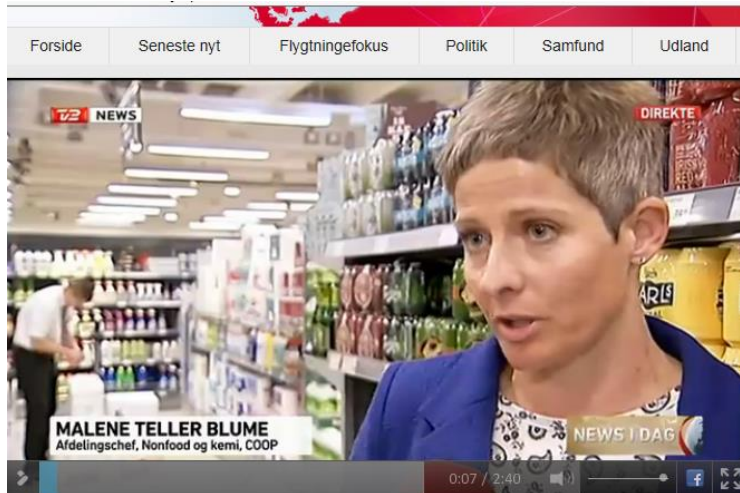


Grundet fornyet mistanke om skadelige stoffer i mikro popcorn har vi valgt helt at fjerne dem fra hylderne

Hellere være for forsigtig end bagklog. Den logik ligger bag beslutningen om at fjerne mikrobølgepopcorn fra alle vores butikker. Emballagen indeholder nemlig fluorstoffer, der er mistænkt for at være hormonforstyrrende og kræftfremkaldende. Derfor tager vi nu konsekvensen og fjerner mikrobølgepopcorn fra hylderne. Det betyder nu ikke, at du skal undvære en hyggelig skal popcorn. I Coop har vi nemlig indkøbt ekstra mange af de færdigpoppede i stedet. Lun dem i ca. 1 min i mikroovnen og de smager som havde du poppet dem selv.



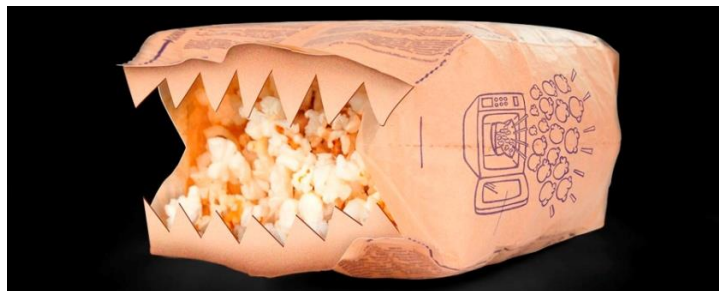
Positive media exposure – value 1½ million Euros  
=more than the value of lost of sales



## Coop: Farvel til popcorn skal lægge pres på producenten

af Keld Vrå Andersen · 18. maj 2015, 19:46

Coop-koncernen, der blandt andet omfatter butikker som Superbrugsen, Fakta og Kvickly har fjernet mikroovnspopcorn fra hylderne. Popcornene vil ikke blive solgt i butikkerne, før der er fundet en løsning på emballagens problemer med flourerende stoffer, oplyser Coop.



## FORBRUG & LIV

Bolig Sundhed Digitalt Forbrug Biler Livsstil

FØDEVARER 19. MAJ. 2015 KL. 15.03

## Dansk Supermarked fortsætter salg af popcorn med hormonforstyrrende stoffer

Coop vil skåne kunderne for sundhedsskadelige stoffer i emballagen.



October 2015 – microwave popcorn was back!  
Maybe the first in the world !!  
No PFC's – but only in Denmark !!



Ecolabelling very popular in DK



Ecolabel Nordic Swan (3rd party certification) guarantee no PFAS:

**List of products and manufacturer:**

<http://www.ecolabel.dk/da/produkter/husholdning-og-lys>



# Requirements to suppliers



**Still waiting for a Danish legislation (and EU next step)!**

**In our Trade agreement: test for total organic fluor content:**

**2015:** we follow the new guideline from Danish authorities:

*Total organic Fluor in the packaging must not exceed 0,35  
 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^2$  paper/carton.*

Limit could not be met. Background impurities are too high.

Today we use **ALARA principle**.

**April 2018:** New indication limit stated by the authorities: 10  
 *$\mu\text{g}/\text{dm}^2$  paper/carton.*

# Coops PFC's ban is very challenging!

Ongoing check and control:

Many packaging for fast food and packed food,

but also nonfood. **Requirements: Analysis total PFAS**



# 2015: Ban all Bisphenoles in Coop private labels

More than 100 cans and glass lid are now substituted and BPA-free over 3 years period:

Substitution and innovation is indeed challenging

- “BPA-NI” is a problem
- Tetra Pack is the safe solutions (but not easy to sell)



**Jan 2015:** no cashier paper with Bisphenoles.

**June 2016:** Coop brands “Änglamark” cans free from all BPA and other bisphenoles.

**End of 2018:** all cans and glasses BPA-free (more than 115 products)

Requirements: BPA-NI. Often polyester inner liner. For the lid we must accept PVC instead. :

# Important to involve the consumers

We have adopted a very ambitious packaging strategy covering all Coop's private label products.

We start with our responsible brand "Änglamark". Also for nonfood.

NO MORE CANS – replaced by a paper brick:



Our ambition at Coop is to make the most sustainable packaging in the world.

In September 2017 we launch our most ambitious campaign ever for chemicals.

**Focus: PFAS and bisphenoles, and addressing cocktail effect**



# PROPOSAL FOR A RESOLUTION IN THE DANISH PARLIAMENT

**Concerning a ban on specific  
endocrine-disrupting compounds**

(bisphenols and fluorinated chemicals)

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## THE DANISH PARLIAMENT IMPOSES ON THE GOVERNMENT TO:

- **Point 1**

Introduce a national ban on all harmful bisphenol compounds e.g. bisphenol A, -S and -F (BPA, BPF, and BPS), and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food contact materials as well as certain other consumer products, including the recycling fase.

- **Point 2**

Initiate implementation of similar restrictions in the EU.

- **Point 3**

Initiate an investigation of the overall impact of potentially harmful chemical substances on humans and environment, described as the "cocktail effect". The investigation should evaluate the need for further regulations, including possible regulation of entire groups of substances, which are suspected to elicit endocrine-disrupting effects.

# The campaign site and video

- **The video** English subtitles (maybe you need to choose subtitles to see the English subtitles):

<https://youtu.be/aY0hBpIP7gQ>

The webpage:

- <http://nykemilov.dk/>



# Ask for a Danish ban of PFAS and bisphenoles

Coop initiated meetings with 3 members of 3 parties in Danish Parliament.



We have listed the most important scientific references (more than 60):

|                           |                          |                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| PFOS                      | Myndighed                | Fødevarestyrelsen: Vejledende grænseværdi for fluorerede stoffer i fødevareremballage                                                                | Dokument fra Fødevarestyrelsen med grænseværdi                  | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFOS og PFOS forbindelser | Standard                 | Kinesisk grænseværdi (forbud)                                                                                                                        | Grænseværdi for indhold af PFOS samt test standard.             | <a href="#">Link til GB 9685-2016</a> |
| PFOA                      | Myndighed                | PFOA Optagelse på REACH Annex XVII med virkning fra 2020.                                                                                            | Tekst fra Annex XVII Må ikke anvendes i blandinger og artikler. | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFOA                      | Myndighed                | Optagelse af PFOA på Kandidatlisten                                                                                                                  | ECHAS baggrundsdokument                                         | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFAS                      | Myndighed                | Rapport fra Nordisk ministerråd juli 2017                                                                                                            | Opfordring til omgående regulering af PFAS                      | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFAS                      | Myndighed                | Nordisk Ministerråd Rapport med analyse af produkter september 2017                                                                                  | 52 undersøgt for indhold af PFAS                                | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFAS                      | Forskning                | A Never-Ending Story of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)                                                                                  | Rapport med anbefalinger til videre forskning                   | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFAS                      | Forskning                | NEW SOLUTIONS: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health Policy Artikel Perfluorinated Alkyl Substances Emerging Insights Into Health Risks | Rapport 2015 Medforfatter Philippe Grandjean                    | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFAS                      | Forskning holdningdpapir | Helsingør Statement on poly- and perfluorinated alkyl substances (PFASs)                                                                             | Gennemgang af effekter samt forslag til regulering.             | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFAS                      | Forskning                | The Madrid Statement on Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)                                                                                  | Gennemgang af effekter samt forslag til regulering.             | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFAS                      | Organisation             | Green Science Policy Institute Fluorinated Alternatives: Myths versus Facts.                                                                         | Kort factsheet.                                                 | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |
| PFC                       | Organisation             | Biomonitoring California PFC Factsheet                                                                                                               | Kort factsheet                                                  | <a href="#">Link til dokument</a>     |



# We delivered 21.000 signaturers til the Danish Parliament



# Coop's **action had** an impact on Danish government chemical strategy

After our campaign for a new legislation and ban for PFAS and bisphenoles a new 4 years chemical agreement was adopted.

Several key points and actions was addresses in the "Political Agreement on new joint chemicals initiatives 2018-21"

**Coop received a letter from Minister, because our input helped DK to adopt a ambitious strategy.**

## Political Agreement on new joint chemicals initiatives 2018-21

*Informed consumers, fair conditions for enterprises, less impact on health and the environment, and effective regulation and control of the most harmful chemicals. These are the main points in a new agreement on chemicals in products and food.*

The Government, the Social Democratic Party, the Danish People's Party, the Red-Green Alliance, Alternativet, the Social-Liberal Party and the Socialist People's Party will safeguard Danes and the environment against harmful chemical substances. We are exposed to chemical substances no matter where in the world we find ourselves. Therefore focus on protecting human health and the environment is vital, as well as focus on responsible production and use of chemical substances. We should be able to exploit the advantages of chemicals without being exposed to adverse effects.

We need more focus on the groups most vulnerable to chemical substances - unborn babies, children and young people because this agreement reaches into the future. Therefore, sustainable initiatives are required for consumer goods and food products, and we must keep consumers informed so that they can make safe choices.

The agreements is here: <http://mst.dk/media/143466/kemiindsats-engelsk.pdf>



Miljø- og  
fødevareministeren

Coop, att. Malene Teller Blume  
Mail: [Malene.Teller.Blume@coop.dk](mailto:Malene.Teller.Blume@coop.dk)

Fødevarer og forbruger  
Ref. EMISM  
Den 22. november 2017

Til Coop, att. Malene Teller Blume

På vegne af statsministeren og mig selv vil jeg takke for jeres henvendelse af 26. september 2017 om at forbyde skadelige bisphenoler og fluoreerede stoffer i fødevarerprodukter og forbrugerprodukter.

Der er netop indgået en politisk aftale om kemiindsatsen for 2018-2021 med alle Folketingets partier. Med den nye kemiindsats sætter vi ambitionsniveauet endnu højere op. Skadelig kemi skal ud af produkter og fødevarer. I aftalen sættes fokus på de grupper, der er mest sårbare over for kemiske stoffer - ufødte, børn og unge - fordi kemiindsatsen peger ud i fremtiden. Der arbejdes bl.a. på at fremme EU-reguleringen af hele stofgrupper i stedet for at regulere stoffer et af gangen. Det kunne fx være grupperne fluoreerede stoffer og bisphenoler.

Den nye kemiindsats indeholder ligeledes initiativer i forhold til kombinationseffekter - et emne der også fremhæves i Coops forslag til beslutningsforslag. Eksempelvis skal der videreudvikles metoder til risikovurdering af kombinationseffekter af kemiske stoffer fra miljø- og fødevarer-eksponeringer.

Med venlig hilsen

  
Esben Lunde Larsen



**Coop's campaign won several digital prizes for social impact and benefits**



**coop**

## Safer food packaging: How do we move faster??

The legislation does not cover risk. Concern for EDC and **cocktail effect** is not well implemented!

- Regulations most efficient. But EU too slow....
- We need more dialog, pro-activity and communication!
  - Both from authorities, retailers, suppliers/industry and need to **involve** consumers.
- Scientist and authorities – more examples for public statement when deep concern ? Like Helsingor Statement (2014) in regards PFAS. We save 10 years !!!

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S004565351400678X>

- Business cases for PFAS and Bisphenoles are all good.  
Not more expensive.



**MANY THANKS FOR LISTENING!**

**[malene.teller.blume@coop.dk](mailto:malene.teller.blume@coop.dk)**