



Packaging gravure – Industry of Systemic Importance

Ensuring the supply of everyday goods, especially food, to the population is of systemic importance (“system-relevant”) and thus must be maintained even in the current crisis of the coronavirus pandemic. In the supply chain for food and other everyday goods, the product, shipping and service packaging enables these goods to be available and free of hygiene concerns all the way to the end consumer, and ensures that shelf life is maximised.

Product, shipping and service packaging, to pack foodstuffs and other goods for daily use, are thus an integral part of sustainable supply security for the population.

On 27 March 2020, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) published a guideline “Unternehmen der KRITIS Ernährung (Ernährungsunternehmen)” i.e. “Companies within the Critical Infrastructure for Food (Food Companies)”, in coordination with the federal states and the federal ministries of economics, health and transport, as a guide for defining the term “Critical Infrastructure for Food”. This contains lists of types of business which are examples (not exhaustively) of critical and thus system-relevant companies in the food industry.

The BMEL has suggested to the federal states that the guideline be made available to the authorities in the states responsible for measures under the Infection Protection Act. We would like to point out that this official list is also the basis for information on the classification of individual companies in the supply chain. There is no further official individual certification in Germany.

In the guideline, “Companies for the production of packaging and packaging material for products” are explicitly listed as critical and thus as system-relevant companies in the food industry. “Supplier companies and logistics service providers of the aforementioned companies” are also classified in the same way in the guidelines. Cylinder manufacturers that produce or supply printing formes for the packaging industry are thus also considered supplier companies.

“System-relevance” in the current “Corona crisis” means that systemically important economic groups and companies are exempt from restrictions in connection with measures to contain the Coronavirus pandemic (e.g. restrictions on the cross-border movement of goods).

This therefore also applies to the supply chains of product, shipping and service packaging, their raw materials and preliminary products for packaging food and other everyday goods.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manfred Janoschka', is positioned above the printed name.

Manfred Janoschka
ERA Präsident