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TPCH Launches Test Project for Toxics in Packaging —Focused on Wine Bottles, Flexible PVC, and Pigments

The Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse (TPCH) launched a research study that will screen several types of packaging for the presence of 4 metals – lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium – which are prohibited in nineteen U.S. states by toxics in packaging laws. Previous studies identified the potential for several packaging types — imported green wine bottles, flexible PVC packaging, and highly pigmented plastic bags— to contain lead and cadmium.

TPCH is collecting retail packaging samples through the end of the year. In January, the packaging samples will be screened using an x-ray fluorescent (XRF) instrument that allows for the inexpensive and rapid detection of elemental composition. Samples that screen positive for the restricted metals will be sent to laboratories for confirmatory testing.

TPCH will use the results to assess overall compliance with state laws, and the success of previous TPCH education and outreach efforts. As with past projects, TPCH member states may use the test results to pursue enforcement of their state laws.

This project focuses on packaging materials and product sectors identified in prior TPCH studies as having a potential for non-compliance. Priority samples include green wine bottles originating in Europe and South America, and flexible PVC plastic bags used to package products such as home furnishings, sporting goods, and personal care items. In addition, the project will test highly pigmented single-use plastic bags.

For more information on toxics in packaging, visit the [Toxics in Packaging Clearinghouse](#) website or contact [Patty Dillon](#), TPCH Program Manager.