



# FLASH

CUSTOMER MAGAZINE

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Products  
People

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EDITORIAL

Innovation Meets Responsibility: Our Latest Developments



Dear Customers

Welcome to a new issue of our customer magazine, once again dedicated to groundbreaking innovations, exciting new products, and our commitment to sustainability.

In a time when technological advancements and environmental responsibility must go hand in hand, our goal is to develop forward-thinking packaging solutions that ensure both maximum functionality and sustainability. Our latest developments reflect this mission impressively. We are proud to present the first mono-material pouch for cabbage products – a true milestone in terms of recyclability and resource conservation. With this new, fully recyclable packaging solution, we are setting a strong example for the future of food packaging while significantly reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.

Our valve technology is also constantly evolving. With the mono-PE aroma protection valve, we've introduced another sustainable innovation. This new development not only provides the same excellent protection for sensitive aromas but also offers a fully recyclable material solution. Here, functionality seamlessly aligns with ecological responsibility.

Sustainability is not just a trend for us; it's a central guiding principle. That's why we've invested in expanding our solar energy systems to meet our own energy needs in a more independent

and environmentally friendly manner. By mid-2024, the expansion of our photovoltaic system will enable us to cover a significant portion of our electricity needs with renewable energy. This will further reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and strengthen our position as a responsible company.

While technological advancements are important, personal interaction with you, our customers, remains a top priority. This year, we proudly showcased our innovations at numerous trade fairs, establishing valuable connections. We look forward to meeting you in person at future events to discuss the future of our industry.

In this issue, we invite you to explore exciting insights into our latest developments and discover inspiring stories about sustainable practices in the packaging industry.

We want to plan the future together with you - innovative, sustainable and responsible.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.  
Cordially,

Oliver Fankhauser  
CEO

SHORTNEWS



Wire EDM Machine at Michel Werkzeugbau AG

Highly precise and ideal for complex shapes, also suitable for extremely hard materials – these are just some of the features of the wire EDM machine now in use at Michel Werkzeugbau AG.

The wire EDM (Electrical Discharge Machining) process enables the cutting of very fine, homogeneous surfaces with a roughness of Ra 0.08 µm on conductive materials. The wire, typically made of brass, copper, or tungsten, has a thickness ranging from 0.03 to 0.3 mm.

The process is usually carried out in multiple stages, using optimized technologies with varying currents and speeds to follow the desired geometries. This method is faster and more precise than conventional machining techniques. It is particularly suited for producing complex molds, even when working with extremely hard materials or tight tolerances.

Thanks to its extended displacement path and enhanced accuracy, the wire EDM machine offers a broad range of applications. It's ideal for products in industries such as medical, automotive, and aerospace, as well as for the manufacture of tools for stamping and forming technologies, mold making, mechanical engineering, and the production of precise series parts.



Wipf Focuses on Solar Energy Expansion

The photovoltaic system on the roof of the production hall in Volketswil has been operational since December 2021 – and is performing exceptionally well. With 974 solar modules covering a generator area of 1,800 m<sup>2</sup>, the system produced 317,320 kWh in the last financial year alone. This accounted for an average of 6.2 % of the company's annual energy consumption. So far, Wipf has been able to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 350 tons through the use of photovoltaics – a solid first step. Now, the next phase begins.

To further reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the system is being expanded with 356 additional solar modules, which will boost output by 157 kWp. Starting in August 2024, this expansion will enable the production of an additional 150,000 to 172,000 kWh of electricity annually. As with the existing system, the additional power generated will be fed into the in-house power grid for regular use.

This commitment to solar energy is another critical step toward achieving a more independent power supply for the company, further demonstrating Wipf AG's strong sustainability standards. Clean energy for economic purposes is a win-win – benefiting both the environment and business alike.



Aroma Protection Valves Now Also Made of Mono-PE

With a 3-year guarantee and an extremely low failure rate, the WICOVALVE® valve range from Wipf is the market leader for aroma protection valves. However, the company isn't only committed to quality but also to sustainability, consistently implementing this commitment in product manufacturing. In 2014, Wipf AG was one of the first manufacturers to launch a certified compostable aroma protection valve. This was followed by the introduction of recyclable mono-PP valves in 2019.

Today, the entire WICOVALVE® product range is available in mono-PP, and the selection has been expanded to include polyolefin valves in all sizes. Composed of over 97 % polyolefin, this material variant is fundamentally recyclable and can be easily reintegrated into most PE recycling streams.

A brand-new addition to the WICOVALVE® range is the pure mono-PE valve variant, which is completely recyclable. For instance, in the W0xy series, the best-selling W006 is now also available as a mono-PE aroma protection valve with a lower melting point. This W009PE variant allows for better heat sealing with mono-PE laminates, offering optimal quality from a sustainability perspective.

# PREMIERE

## First Mono Pouch for Cabbage Products...

This task posed quite a challenge: developing a sustainable and recyclable laminate made of mono materials for foods that are pasteurized, particularly for cabbage products and other foods with similar packaging requirements.

Wipf embraced this challenge in collaboration with the food manufacturer Hengstenberg, with whom a well-coordinated partnership has been maintained for over 20 years for packaging solutions. The result of this collaboration will start in December 2024 when Hengstenberg launches two organic sauerkraut products in innovative and sustainable packaging.



### SPECIALISTS FOR EACH TECHNOLOGY

The recipe for success lies in the combination of expertise from both worlds. On one side, we have one of Europe's leading packaging manufacturers, specialized in high-barrier packaging laminates primarily for the food industry. On the other side we have a traditional family business known for its diverse range of sauerkraut, red cabbage, vinegar, cucumbers, and delicatessen products, holding the title of Germany's market leader in sauerkraut and vinegar.

### LAMINATES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Until now, pasteurized and retorted products such as cabbage and other food products have been packed mainly with aluminium-based laminates (made of PET aluminium and PP combinations). Those flexible packaging combinations extend effectively the shelf life of food, however, they pose challenges in terms of sustainability. Laminates that are produced with different material types require costly separation processes to re-enter the recycling cycle – or, in some cases, they cannot be recycled at all. According to the Cyclos HTP Institute, the recyclability of aluminium laminates reaches only a level of 17 %.



### RECYCLABLE MONO LAMINATES

This intensive development effort has led to the creation of an innovative mono-PP laminate optimized for pasteurized products. This laminate is perfect for producing pouches for cabbage products and various other food items, offering significant sustainable advantages compared to conventional flexible packaging materials:

- **Recyclability:** Mono-PP laminates are significantly easier to recycle, particularly through chemical recycling, which achieves a recycling rate of approximately 92 % (compared to only 17 % for conventional aluminum laminates). Additionally, mechanical recycling allows the complete reuse of packaging made from mono-PP laminates. The resulting recyclate is suitable for manufacturing products in industries such as cleaning products and construction.
- **Energy Savings:** Producing barrier laminates from mono-PP as a substitute for aluminum requires significantly less energy than aluminum based laminates.
- **Weight Reduction:** Mono-PP pouches are approximately 12 % lighter than traditional flexible packaging materials.
- **CO<sub>2</sub>-Savings:** The production of mono-PP laminates results in approximately 38 % less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to traditional aluminum structures.

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- **Shelf-life:** Mono-PP laminates offer a product shelf-life comparable to that of conventional aluminum laminates.
- **Processing:** These mono-PP laminates can be processed on Hengstenberg's production lines at the same speeds as conventional laminates.

Developed by Wipf AG and Hengstenberg.



The best conditions for the two new organic cabbage products: Hengstenberg Organic Fermented White Cabbage and Hengstenberg Organic Cooked Red Cabbage. The cabbage used in these products is sourced 100 % from German organically controlled farming and is closely monitored from sowing to harvest. The combination of high-quality raw materials, short transportation distances, and a gentle production process ensures the well-known Mildessa quality. Both new products are packed ready to eat and can be heated directly in the pouch in the microwave oven.



### SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMERS

Thinking and acting together in a responsible way, Wipf and Hengstenberg demonstrate how this can be achieved through their innovative packaging solution. The new mono-PP pouches enable an environmentally friendly packaging of sustainably produced food of the highest quality while providing the best possible protection. Everyone benefits from that: producers, consumers, the environment, and the climate.

## TRADE FAIRS 2025

Find out about news on sustainable pouches at these trade shows:

-  **Specialty Coffee Expo**  
25-27 April 2025, Houston
-  **World of Coffee**  
26-28 June 2025, Geneva
-  **Fachpack 2025**  
23-25 September 2025, Nuremberg

# COMPLEX REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

## Packaging and Food Contact Materials



Flexible packaging plays a central role in the food industry. From snack pouches and barrier laminates to small sachets and lidding laminates for ready meals, these forms of packaging are ubiquitous and fulfill essential functions in the protection and presentation of food. However, what appears simple at first glance is actually governed by a complex set of regulations designed to ensure consumer safety.

### FLEXIBLE PACKAGING FOR FOOD

The regulation of food contact materials in the European Union is primarily based on Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004, which establishes the basic requirements that all materials intended for food contact has to meet.

A central aspect of this regulation is found in Article 3, which outlines three main criteria:

1. **Health Protection:** The packaging must not release any components into food in quantities that are hazardous to health.
2. **Product Integrity:** The packaging must not cause any unacceptable changes to the composition of the food.
3. **Organoleptic Properties:** The packaging must not affect the food's colour, smell, taste and texture.

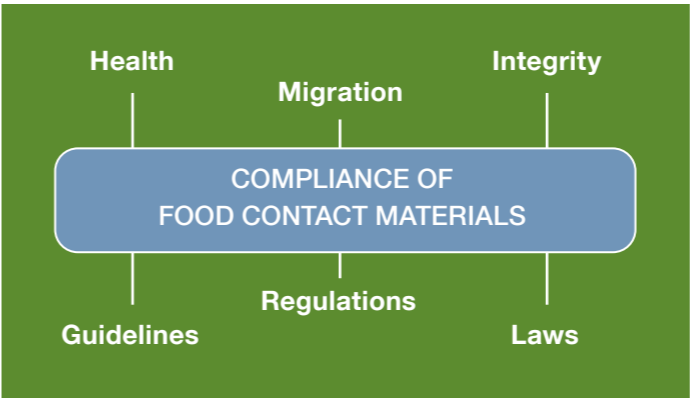
These requirements may seem self-evident at first glance, but implementing and reviewing them demands a high level of expertise and attention to detail.

### THE ROLE OF THE REGULATORY AFFAIRS TEAM

At Wipf AG, a company specializing in the production of flexible packaging, the Regulatory Affairs department plays a crucial role. Its primary responsibility is to assess the risk of potential substance migrations from the packaging materials into food products. This process involves several steps:

- **Customer Requirements:** All specific information about the food to be packaged, including various heat treatments during production, intended storage conditions, and expected shelf life, is documented.
- **Supplier Information:** All data regarding the chemical composition and potential migration properties of the raw materials and materials used is thoroughly evaluated.
- **Analytical Tests:** Various analyses are coordinated with specialized service laboratories that test packaging materials for their suitability for food contact and investigate potential migration risks.
- **Continuous Further Training:** Participation in specialist conferences and association activities, as well as the regular review of scientific reports, supports the regulatory work.

A particular focus at Wipf is on integrating legal requirements into the development process for new products from the outset. This requires close cooperation between the Regulatory Affairs, Development, Purchasing, and Sales departments. Such collaboration allows potential problems to be identified and addressed early, saving both time and money while ensuring compliance with all relevant regulations.



### CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

The regulation of food contact materials is a dynamic field that is constantly evolving. New scientific findings, shifting consumer demands, and technological innovations require continuous adaptation of the legal framework.

In addition, issues such as sustainability and recyclability are becoming increasingly important, particularly in light of the new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). The challenge lies in developing environmentally friendly packaging solutions, such as mono-material laminates, that also meet all safety requirements.

Companies like Wipf must therefore not only stay informed about current regulations but also proactively work on solutions for future requirements. This requires a high level of innovation and flexibility, as well as close collaboration with associations, authorities and other stakeholders in the industry.



### CONCLUSION

The production of flexible packaging for food is complex and challenging and demands a deep understanding of materials science, food technology and the regulatory landscape. Companies like Wipf bear a significant responsibility to ensure consumer safety and the integrity of packaged products. This is why we prioritize close cooperation between Regulatory Affairs and other departments, along with continuous training and adaptation to new developments.

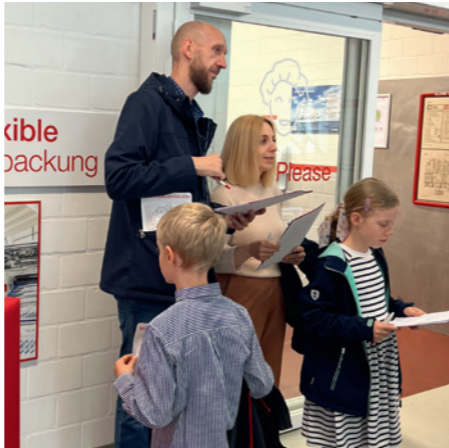
By doing so, we ensure that our products are not only innovative and functional but also compliant with all legal requirements.



**Charlotta Jung**  
Regulatory Affairs  
and Compliance

# ON WIPF FAMILY DAY

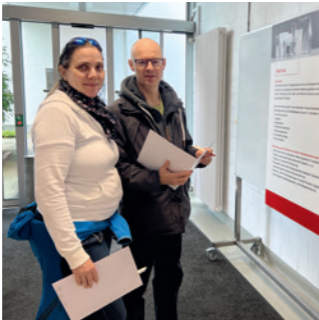
## We Have...



## Celebrated...

On June 15, 2024 we had a fantastic Wipf Family Day.

In beautiful weather, our employees and retired colleagues from Wipf AG and Michel Werkzeugbau AG came together with their families to enjoy a day filled with fun, delicious food and a wonderful atmosphere.



## Together!

There were activities for young and old, including a bouncy castle, table football, and creative pouch painting. Culinary delights featured delicious barbecue dishes and refreshing ice cream from the ice cream van. The production tour, which offered fascinating insights and included an entertaining competition, was particularly exciting. The grand finale was the collective cheering for the Swiss national team during their first victorious game at the European Championship 2024.



WE ARE  
the New...



Apprentices from left to right:  
Luart Aliu, Gabriele Matera, Alessio Iannunzio, Aleksa Miljkovic,  
Gerti Abdulai, Alessandro Tortù

WARM WELCOME  
to Wipf AG

The Wipf team has expanded once again: starting in August 2024, Wipf will welcome six new apprentices. This brings the total number of apprentices at Wipf AG to 20, while Michel Werkzeugbau AG has two apprentices training in various fields.

We welcome:

- Gerti Abdulai, Plant Operator EFZ
- Aleksa Miljkovic, Plant Operator EFZ
- Alessandro Tortù, Business Administrator EFZ
- Alessio Iannunzio, Logistician EFZ
- Luart Aliu, Packaging Packaging Printer EFZ
- Gabriele Matera, Packaging Printer EFZ

They are all excited about the new challenges ahead and the benefits of an apprenticeship at Wipf, including six weeks of vacation during all three years of training, the opportunity to increase their salary based on good grades and performance, coverage of teaching material costs, and an additional contribution toward the cost of a laptop for vocational school. They will also participate in the annual apprentice project and, last but not least, enjoy an annual outing, always a fantastic event for everyone involved.

This year, we visited the Chocolate Museum on July 3. Thanks to the informative guided tour, everyone gained deep insights into the history of chocolate and the traditions of one of Switzerland's most famous chocolate manufacturers – complete with sweet samples of various chocolate types. Snacking was expressly permitted! Afterwards, a counterbalance was urgently needed, in form of a delicious pizza lunch. Well fortified, we then visited the wilderness park for a contrasting experience, where small groups of apprentices and vocational trainers engaged in various stations.

These team-building activities ensured lots of fun and a great mood – ideal conditions for fostering good team spirit and communication! Pure nature, plenty of fresh air, and exercise were included at no extra charge. In conclusion, it was a day well spent, filled with sweet insights, delicious food, a wonderful community, and numerous new experiences that might not have been gained otherwise.

Training with optimal support is the best foundation for a successful future for young people. Wipf AG is committed to this goal and wishes everyone a wonderful, instructive, and exciting time. Our colleagues look forward to meeting you. Let's shape the future together!

WE AT WIPF  
are committed to...



HOLIDAY CAMP HÜTTENBAU SEEN

Under the motto „Ghost Castle,“ the children of the association enjoyed an unforgettable vacation camp during the summer of 2024. Children aged eight and older built their own huts under expert supervision, played exciting games, and created wonderful memories with new friends. Wipf AG once again supported this adventure, helping to ensure that the children had an engaging and educational experience.



VILLAGE SOCCER TOURNAMENT,  
VOLKETSCHWIL

In May 2024, FC Volketswil organized an exciting village football tournament in which Wipf AG participated with its own team. Our employees demonstrated real team spirit, not only in their daily work but also on the football pitch, ultimately securing victory in the tournament. They were supported by our sponsorship, which not only facilitated participation but also provided branded T-shirts that our team wore with pride. It was an great success!



# IMPRESSUM

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