



Housewares are articles that are used in the home for processing, storage or serving of food. They are not covered by FDA regulations by reason of the “Housewares Exemption”.

The “Housewares Exemption” grew out of a statement of **legislative intent** made when the 1958 Food Additives Amendment was enacted. This statement explained that the amendment was not meant to authorize the regulation of housewares and related food contact items **used in the home**.

Therefore, containers sold to the consumer with no food in them are classified as housewares, but containers sold with food in them are food packaging items and are subject to regulations by the FDA.

Many manufacturers of housewares items specify FDA “approved” materials when ordering plastic materials, even though it may not be a requirement for their products.

Styrolution manufactures a number of materials that are suitable for food contact uses; however, the FDA frowns on use of the term “FDA approved” in connection with proprietary plastic materials. It feels that approval connotes endorsement of a particular manufacturer’s product and prefers use of the terms such as FDA “allowed”, “sanctioned” or “cleared” to indicate compliance with applicable FDA regulations.

Technical Service Bulletins describing the FDA status and listing applicable regulations for each Styrolution material offered for use in food contact applications are available from Account Managers and the Customer Service department.