

NIAS Testing Service

Ensure safety and quality of plastic material in contact with food.

For plastic food contact materials going to EU market, substances that are used for manufacturing the food contact material must be taken from the Union list in Annex I of EU regulation no. 10/2011. Only those substances are allowed to be added intentionally to the formulation as monomers, additives or production aids. Most of the compliance checks now will target directly for the release of these intentionally added substances, as manufacturers or distributors are sure they are used in the manufacturing processes.

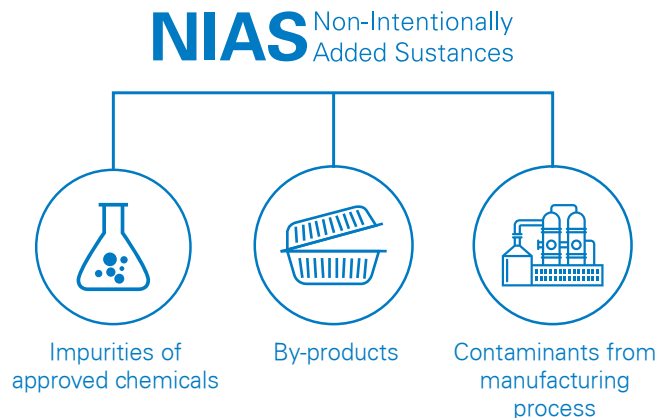
However, EU regulation no. 10/2011 also mentions another group of substances that are of particular interest. The "NIAS" (Non-Intentionally Added Substances) can also be found in plastic food contact materials even if they are not added directly. The EU regulation no. 10/2011 does not include comprehensive assessment of NIAS, but overall NIAS should be assessed to be sure that the plastic material is safe in contact with food, under the principles of article 3 of EC regulation 1935/2004.

IMPORTANCE OF NIAS

As testing techniques and requirements develop rapidly, authorities are also increasingly aware of advanced requirements such as NIAS testing. Hence, it is foreseeable that the assessment of NIAS will be extended to be a common requirement for product safety in consumer products with food contact and food production machines. It is therefore highly recommended to include NIAS assessment into your product compliance assessment to be well prepared for this upcoming trend.

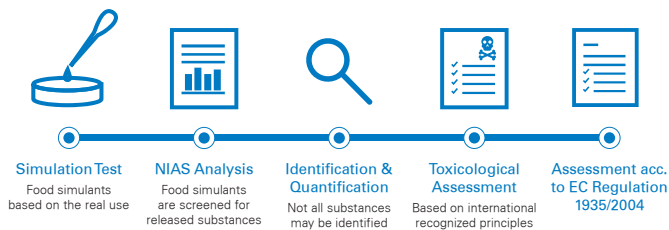
WHAT IS "NIAS"?

NIAS, as the name implies are substances that are not intentionally added into food contact materials, but are present. The reason can vary from substance to substance; some are impurities of the chemicals from the approved list (Union list of EU regulation no. 10/2011), some can be formed as by-products and some can be purely contaminants during manufacturing processes. The presence of these NIAS is often not expected, it can be any kind of chemical and can be dangerous if not assessed on the final food contact material.



WHAT IS TÜV RHEINLAND NIAS TESTING SERVICE ABOUT?

Our NIAS testing will help you to understand what kind of non-intentionally added substances can potentially migrate into foodstuff from a food contact material. The test is carried out by simulation test with food simulants referring to EU regulation no. 10/2011, and then submitting the food simulants to NIAS analysis. The analysis technique scans all the released substances and identifies them at a very low detection level (10 parts per billion). A toxicological assessment (based on international recognized principles) will follow, which can tell whether these identified NIAS can potentially endanger human health. In case of an identified risk, that means the material cannot be guaranteed as safe and hence it can lead to the conclusion that the material is not suitable for food contact and violating the requirements under article 3 of EC regulation 1935/2004.



One thing to note is that no official standardized method is available for NIAS currently, and also not all found substances can be identified by any existing single laboratory technique. Therefore please contact your local TÜV Rheinland Group office contact to understand more about the NIAS testing. We will be happy to help and provide you the guidance to ensure a safer product in the market.

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OUR SERVICES

As an accredited testing laboratory, we offer the following services:

- Design tailor-made testing programs for international buyers
- Provide strong technical support for customer enquiries
- Extensive scope of food contact testing for all materials
- Seminars and training

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

NIAS tests carried out by TÜV Rheinland laboratories allows you to:

- Ensure food contact compliance with statutory and voluntary requirements
- Provide consumers with safe and tested products
- Boost confidence in the quality and safety of your products
- Document implementation of legal requirements with test reports