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IN RE-DESIGNING THE TRADITIONAL FOOD PACKAGING AS AN ACTIVE AND
INTELLIGENT ONE. A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

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Abstract: Nanotechnology applied to food and beverage packaging has created enormous interest in recent years, but in the same time there are many controversial issues surrounding nanotechnology and food. The benefits of engineered nanoparticles (ENPs) in food-contact applications are accompanied by safety concerns due to gaps in understanding the toxicology. In case of incorporation in food contact polymers, the first step to consumer exposure is the transfer of ENPs from the polymer to the food. Hence, to improve understanding of risk and benefit, the key questions are whether nanoparticles can be released from food contact polymers and under which conditions.

This review has two main goals. Firstly, it will be presented the current advancements in the application of ENPs in food and beverage packaging sector to grant active and intelligent properties. A particular focus will be placed on current demands in terms of risk assessment strategies associated with the use ENPs in food contact materials (FCMs), i.e. up-to-date migration / cytotoxicity studies of ENPs which are partly contradictory. Secondly, the review provide an extensive analysis of present market dynamics on ENPs in food/beverage packaging moving beyond concept to current industrial applications.

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NANOTECHNOLOGY IN RE-DESIGNING THE TRADITIONAL FOOD
PACKAGING AS AN ACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT ONE. A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW**

ABSTRACT

Nanotechnology applied to food and beverage packaging has created enormous interest in recent years, but in the same time there are many controversial issues surrounding nanotechnology and food. The benefits of engineered nanoparticles (ENPs) in food-contact applications are accompanied by safety concerns due to gaps in understanding the toxicology. In case of incorporation in food contact polymers, the first step to consumer exposure is the transfer of ENPs from the polymer to the food. Hence, to improve understanding of risk and benefit, the key questions are whether nanoparticles can be released from food contact polymers and under which conditions.

This review has two main goals. Firstly, it will be presented the current advancements in the application of ENPs in food and beverage packaging sector to grant active and intelligent properties. A particular focus will be placed on current demands in terms of risk assessment strategies associated with the use ENPs in food contact materials (FCMs), i.e. up-to-date migration / cytotoxicity studies of ENPs which are partly contradictory. Food matrix effects are often ignored, and may have a pronounced impact on the behaviour of ENPs in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT).

A standardized food model (SFM) for evaluating the toxicity and fate of ingested ENPs was recently proposed (2019) and herein discussed with the aims to offer an overview to the reader. It is therefore clear that further systematic research is needed, which must account for interactions and transformations of ENMs in foods (food matrix effect) and in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) that are likely to determine nano-biointeractions.

Secondly, the review provide an extensive analysis of present market dynamics on ENPs in food/beverage packaging moving beyond concept to current industrial applications.

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4 **RECENT ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES ON APPLICATIONS OF**
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7 **NANOTECHNOLOGY IN RE-DESIGNING THE TRADITIONAL FOOD**
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9 **PACKAGING AS AN ACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT ONE. A**
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11 **COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW**
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31 **ABSTRACT**
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34 Nanotechnology applied to food and beverage packaging has created enormous interest in recent
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36 years, but in the same time there are many controversial issues surrounding nanotechnology and
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38 food. The benefits of engineered nanoparticles (ENPs) in food-contact applications are
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40 accompanied by safety concerns due to gaps in understanding the toxicology. In case of
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42 incorporation in food contact polymers, the first step to consumer exposure is the transfer of
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44 ENPs from the polymer to the food. Hence, to improve understanding of risk and benefit, the key
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46 questions are whether nanoparticles can be released from food contact polymers and under which
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48 conditions.
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4 This review has two main goals. Firstly, it will be presented the current advancements in the
5 application of ENPs in food and beverage packaging sector to grant active and intelligent
6 properties. A particular focus will be placed on current demands in terms of risk assessment
7 strategies associated with the use ENPs in food contact materials (FCMs), i.e. up-to-date
8 migration / cytotoxicity studies of ENPs which are partly contradictory. Food matrix effects are
9 often ignored, and may have a pronounced impact on the behaviour of ENPs in the
10 gastrointestinal tract (GIT).
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22 recently proposed (2019) and herein discussed with the aims to offer an overview to the reader. It
23 is therefore clear that further systematic research is needed, which must account for interactions
24 and transformations of ENMs in foods (food matrix effect) and in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT)
25 that are likely to determine nano-biointeractions.
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34 food/beverage packaging moving beyond concept to current industrial applications.
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42 **KEYWORDS**

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45 Migration/Standard food model for evaluating the toxicity and fate of ingested ENPs;

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47 Measurement methods to evaluate ENPs release from food contact materials;

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49 Cytotoxicity;

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51 Innovation
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4 **Introduction**
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7 *Statistics regarding increasing interest of nanotechnology*
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10 Nanotechnology seems to be new source of key improvements for the current challenges in food
11 security and food sustainability. The concept of nanotechnology was introduced in 1959 by
12 Richard Feynman (Khademhosseini, and Lager 2006). Nanotechnology is the ability to work on
13 a scale of about 1-100 nm in order to understand, create, characterize and use material structures,
14 devices and systems with new properties derived from their nanostructures (Roco 2003).
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22 According to statistics published on the StatNano website, ~166.000 nanotechnology articles
23 were indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) Database in 2018 (StatNano 2018), which represents
24 10 % of all articles indexed in the database. In brief, in current years, China, United States, and
25 India were ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for publishing research in the related field of nanotechnology,
26 thus showing increasing interest in the similar topics in the field of nanotechnology by the
27 researchers of these countries. Hence, of these ~ 166.000 articles, 39.47 % were published in
28 China, 14.75 % in the United States, and India 8.45 % (StatNano 2018).
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40 In food/food and beverage packaging most application of nanotechnology include engineered
41 nanoparticles ² (ENPs, called also manufactured nanomaterials) of transition metals, such as
42 silver and iron; alkaline earth metals, such as calcium and magnesium; and non-metals, such as
43 selenium and silicates. Other ENPs that can potentially be used in food applications include zinc
44 oxide, titanium dioxide. Food packaging is the major area of applications of ENPs, which
45 redefine traditional food packaging in *active* and *intelligent* packaging.
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54 This updated review comes as a tool for the reader to understand where we are and where we
55 are heading in terms of the *active* food and beverage packaging. A particular focus of this
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² metal (oxide)
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4 updated review was focused on a overview on (i) regulations due to a possible migration of
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6 active additives from packaging into foodstuff, which might have detrimental effects on
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8 consumator health; (ii) cytotoxicity of the active additives; (iii) appropriate measurement
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10 techiques for a reliable detection of active additives migration from food packaging into
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12 foodstuff; (iv) current packaging industrial applications, based on ENPs, aiming to extend the
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14 shelf life of food and drinks and also to improve the food safety.
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21 *ENPs in food and beverage packaging. Comparative study of nano- vs micro- sized particles*

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24 In 2011, the European Commission (EC) ([EC No. 10/2011](#)) adopted the following
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26 Recommendation (2011/696/EU) for a definition of the term nanomaterial (NM) ([EC No.](#)
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28 [696/2011](#)),”a natural, incidental or manufactured materials containg particles, in an unbound
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30 state or as an aggregate or as an agglomerate and where, for 50 % or more of the particles in the
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32 number size distribution, one or more external dimentions is in the size range 1-100 nm. In
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34 specific cases and where warranted by concerns for the environment, health, safety or
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36 competitiveness the number size distribution threshold of 50 % maybe replaced by a threshold
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38 between 1 and 50 %”. The EC NM definition further specifies: ‘particle’, ‘agglomerate’ and
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40 ‘aggregate’ are defined as follows: (a) ‘particle’ means a minute piece of matter with defined
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42 physical boundaries; (b) ‘agglomerate’ means a collection of weakly bound particles or
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44 aggregates where the resulting external surface area is similar to the sum of the surface areas of
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46 the individual components; (c) ‘aggregate’ means a particle comprising of strongly bound or
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48 fused particles.
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56 EC NM definition is not intended to cover solid products, as defined in EU regulation ([EU](#)
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58 [Directive 2001/95/EC 2002](#)), even if they contain nanomaterials or have an internal structure at
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4 the nanoscale. The EC NM definition applies only to the nanomaterial in terms of particulate
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6 matter itself and not to the resulting product of a combination of nanomaterial(s) with other
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8 components. Therefore, a consumer product or an end product is not a nanomaterial itself if it
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10 contains nanomaterial(s) as component(s). Accordingly, *a food packaging*, for instance, does not
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12 become a nanomaterial itself, if it contains a nanomaterial ingredient. Thus, even if a product
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14 contains one or more nanomaterials as components, or if it is designed to release nanomaterials,
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16 or releases nanomaterials as wear debris during use or ageing, it is not a nanomaterial itself. This
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18 also means that the criterion that a material is a nanomaterial if 50 % or more of the particles
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20 have one or more dimensions in the range of 1 nm to 100 nm should be applied only to the
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22 material itself, and not to a product or parts of it that contain the material, unless the product is a
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24 particulate material itself. The potential for nanotechnology to improve all aspects of life has
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26 generated high interest, but in the same times it generated also concerns³. The major links
27
28 between nanotechnology and the food and beverage industry are (i) enhancing food security, (ii)
29
30 extending storage life, and (iii) improving flavor and nutrient delivery. Hence, nanotechnology
31
32 redefines food and beverage packaging as *active* and *intelligent* packaging that goes beyond
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34 product protection and brand presentation, imparting functions like moisture control (*e.g. pads*)⁴
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48 ³ the small dimensions of nanoparticles also means they can reach locations in the human body
49 not normally accessible to micro counterparts.
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60 ⁴e.g. of pads
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4 used for example to absorb the drip from meat, poultry and fish in display packaging trays);
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6 antioxidant activity (e.g. the small sachets⁵ that scavenge or capture residual oxygen or ethylene
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8 from inside the packaging (from the environment surrounding the foodstuff or from the foodstuff
9
10 itself) to reduce exposure to oxygen. Exposure to oxygen may result in microbiological growth
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12 on the food, chemical changes to the food, etc. An oxygen scavenger is meant to reduce these
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14 effects thereby prolonging the shelf-life of the foodstuffs. Applications of oxygen scavengers
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16 could be in packaging pasta, milk powder, biscuits, etc.); and antimicrobial activity (e.g. sachet
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18 systems slowly releasing an antimicrobial agent, and therefore maintain freshness and extending
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20 the product shelf-life within the package). Intelligent packaging denotes features that deliver
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22 informaton about brand protection or information for consumator on safety and quallity of the
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24 food products like smart labels⁶, etc. (label which can contain for e.g. time-temperature
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44 ⁵e.g. of small sachets that scavenge or capture residual oxygen or ethylene



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59 ⁶ e.g. of intelligent packaging with a time-temperature indicators:
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Time-temperature indicators are meant to give information on whether a threshold temperature has been exceeded over time and/or to estimate the minimum amount of time a product has spent above the threshold temperature (time temperature history) e.g. from the moment the food is packed until consumption. Below are presented some intelligent packages that are already on the market. As it can be seen from these images, the temperature indicator can be read by the customer with the naked eye and which indicate that the food is no longer fresh or inappropriate for consumption:

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*i*Tempix time/temperature indicator[®] (Sweden). This indicator destroys barcodes on labels if the foodstuff or other temperature sensitive products are exposed to too high temperature. How it works: the indicator is built up from an absorbent (paper label) and a container/label cover including an activator. The activator migrates in the paper when the set temperature is exceeded and erases the bar-code and the optical signal bar after the time period stipulated. Temperature ranges between -30 to +30 °C (-22 to +86 °F) with an accuracy of ±0.5 °C (±0.9 °F). Hence, what is unique about the Tempix solution is that it is coupled to the barcode on the price tag. If the product has been exposed to too much heat, liquid flows over the barcode destroying it, making it illegible for the scanner (*see* details: <http://www.voyagerventure.com/new-page>).

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ii“Fresh Meter” time-temperature indicator from Bizerba’s “OnVu” (USA). How it works: the dynamic indicator is based on “intelligent” temperature-sensitive ink. The specialty ink comprises the bulls-eye on the Fresh Meter label that’s surrounded by an outer ring printed in regular ink that serves as the standard. The preprinted labels are provided to the processing and packaging plant and are activated inline after tray sealing. That’s done by a specialized, microwave-oven sized activator/labeler near the end of the processor’s packaging line that activates the Smart Meter using ultraviolet light. When activated, the Fresh Meter indicator’s

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4 *indicator; RF Sensor tag; etc. it's acts as interactive marketing platform to engage with*
5 *consumers). Active packaging includes, e.g. the usage of nanoparticles (metal (oxides)).*
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10 dynamic inner circle turns bright blue and immediately begins sensing the temperature of the
11 products over time. Consumers can compare that dynamic center circle to the surrounding static-
12 color ring; the latter is printed blue to gray to know when the seafood is fresh (blue) and when it
13 is not (gray).
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20 *iii>To-Genkyo® time temepature indicator (Japan). How it works: the label is printed with a*
21 *special ammonia-detecting ink that darkens according to how much of the chemical is present in*
22 *the meat.*
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27 The more ammonia it contains, the less fresh the meat. Moreover, the darkened label also
28 effectively obscures the product's bar code, making it impossible for it to be scanned at the
29 checkout counter when the meat is past its prime).
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4 Nanoparticles because of their size⁷ have considerable greater surface area to mass ratio and
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6 consequently more surface atoms than their microscale counterparts, which can alter physical
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20 Other examples of time temperature indicators are (On VuTM from Ciba Speciality Chemical
21 and Presh Point; Timestrip[®] from Timestrio Plc; Check Point[®] from Vitsab; Fresh-Check[®]
22 from LifeLines; Cook-Che[®] from Keep-it Technology; Colour-Therm[®] from Colour-Terms;
23 eO[®] from 3MTM, Minnesota; TopCroTM from TRACEO (<http://cryolog.com>)).
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29 e.g. of intelligent packaging with a RF
30 Sensor Tag (advanced data carrier with a
31 data storage up to 1 MB; these data include
32 traceability, inventory management and
33 promotion of quality and safety (Kumar et
34 al., 2009).
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4 and chemical properties such as reactivity and surface charge (e.g. gold at the macro scale
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6 conducts electricity, is chemically unreactive and yellow in color. In contrast, gold at the
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8 nanoscale is a semiconductor, highly reactive and varies in color from pink to red or orange,
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10 depending on how small the particles are). The small dimensions of nanoparticles can favor a
11
12 better interaction with the polymer matrix, and the performance of the resulting material. Thus,
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14 the application of nanotechnology to plastic/bio-based materials may open new possibilities for
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16 improving not only their physical properties (gas/water vapor/aroma barriers, mechanical
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18 properties, etc.) or adding other functions such as antimicrobial/antioxidant properties;
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20 biosensing; reducing the weight of food packaging materials etc., but also the cost-price-
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22 efficiency (Kahn 2006; Sorrentino et al., 2007).
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34 ***Regulations on active food and beverage packaging. Is consumer exposure likely?***
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4 Although, active packaging towards traditional⁸ packaging is designed to add valuable properties
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6 to foodstuff, nevertheless there are serious challenge faced by its commercialization, such as the
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8 possible migration of the active additive (i.e. ENPs), from food packaging into foodstuff, which
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10 might have detrimental effects on consumator health.
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14 Indeed, theoretically, there may be potential consumer exposure to ENPs incorporated into food
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16 packaging if they migrate⁹ into foodstuffs or drinks from the packaging. Until 2004, in Europe
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18 there was a lack of legislation for active and intelligent packaging, decreasing their penetration in
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20 the EU market. To address the problem, Regulation 1935/2004/EC ([EC Regulation No.](#)
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25 ⁸ Unlike traditional packaging, which must be totally inert, *active* packaging is designed to
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27 extend the shelf life or to maintain or improve the condition of packaged food. They are
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29 designed to deliberately incorporate components that would release or absorb substances into or
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31 from the packaged food or the environment surrounding the food ([EC Regulation No.](#)
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33 [1935/2004: Article 2.2a](#); [EC Regulation No. 450/2009: Article 3a](#)).
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55 ⁹ Migration can theoretically occur if nanoparticles desorb from the surface of the packaging
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57 material due to weak bounding at the surface (only really relevant for coating), diffuse into
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59 foods as a result of a concentration gradient, or dissolve resulting in ions into food ([Noonan et](#)
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61 [al., 2014](#)).
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4 1935/2004) and, more specifically, Regulation 450/2009/EC (EC Regulation No. 450/2009), set
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6 a new legal basis for their correct use, safety and marketing.
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9 Active and intelligent packaging: the definitions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004
10 (EC Regulation No. 1935/2004) and in Regulation (EC) No 450 /2009 shall apply (EU
11 Regulation No. 450/2009).
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16 “Active materials and articles” means materials and articles that are intended to extend the shelf
17 life or to maintain or improve the condition of packaged food. They are designed to deliberately
18 incorporate components that would release or absorb substances into or from the packaged food
19 or the environment surrounding the food (EC Regulation No. 1935/2004: Article 2.2a; EU
20 Regulation No. 450/2009: Article 3a). This definition of active materials and articles is
21 interpreted as including all materials and articles that are designed to deliberately interact with
22 food and/or the food surrounding environment, and bring about change in their composition or
23 characteristics.
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27 “Intelligent materials and articles” means materials and articles which monitor the condition of
28 packaged food or the environment surrounding the food (EC Regulation No. 1935/2004: Article
29 2.2b; EU Regulation No. 450/2009: Article 3b).
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34 “Functional barrier” means a barrier consisting of one or more layers of food contact materials
35 which ensures that the finished material or article complies with Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No
36 1935/2004 and with Regulation (EC) No 450/2009. This barrier is a layer within the food contact
37 materials or articles preventing the migration of substances from behind that barrier into the
38 food. The maximum tolerated migration level is **0.01 mg** substance/kg food for a substance. This
39 migration limit is applicable to a group of substances if they are structurally and toxicologically
40 related, in particular isomers or substances with the same relevant functional group; it also
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4 includes possible set-off transfer. This limit shall always be expressed as a concentration in
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6 foods. If it is demonstrated that the packaging material or a layer acts as a functional barrier to
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8 migration then nonauthorised substances can be used in the layer (s) behind the barrier (not on
9
10 the food contact side) provided they don't fall under one of the following categories:
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- 13 ✓ Substances that are mutagenic, carcinogenic or toxic to reproduction should not be used
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15 in food contact materials or articles without previous authorisation and are therefore not
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17 covered by the functional barrier concept.
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- 20 ✓ New technologies that engineer substances in particle size that exhibit chemical and
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22 physical properties that significantly differ from those at a larger scale, for example,
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24 nanoparticles, should be assessed on a case-by-case basis as regards their risk until more
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26 information is known about such new technology. Therefore, they are not covered by the
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28 functional barrier concept. This should be demonstrated in the declaration of compliance
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30 and the supporting documentation ([EU Regulation No. 450/2009: Article 13 and Annex](#)
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32 [II \(10\)](#)).
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38 *“Releasing active materials and articles”* are those active materials and articles designed to
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40 deliberately incorporate components that would release substances into or onto the packaged
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42 food or the environment surrounding the food ([EU Regulation No. 450/2009: Article 3e](#)).
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45 *“Released active substances”* are those substances intended to be released from releasing active
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47 materials and articles into or onto the packaged food or the environment surrounding the food
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49 and fulfilling a purpose in the food ([EU Regulation No. 450/2009: Article 3f](#)).
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53 The Framework Regulation (EC) 1935/2004 states that food contact materials shall not
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55 transfer constituents to food in quantities, which could endanger consumers health, bring about
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57 an unacceptable change in the composition and bring about deterioration in organoleptic
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4 characteristics thereof (Article 3). The Regulation provides specific requirements for active and
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6 intelligent materials and articles (Article 4) and includes the following provisions:
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9 ■ Substances deliberately incorporated into active materials and articles to be released into the
10 food or the environment surrounding the food shall be authorised and used in accordance
11 with the relevant EU provisions applicable to food.
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- 14 ■ Active materials and articles shall not bring about changes in the composition or organoleptic
15 characteristics of food, for instance by masking the spoilage of food, which could mislead
16 consumers.
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- 19 ■ Active and intelligent materials and articles already brought into contact with food shall be
20 adequately labeled to allow identification by the consumer of non-edible parts.
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- 23 ■ Active and intelligent materials and articles shall be adequately labeled to indicate that the
24 materials or articles are active and/or intelligent.
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- 27 ■ The overall migration from active releasing materials can exceed the overall migration limits
28 described in EU or national legislation as long as the levels transferred to the food comply
29 with restrictions in the existing food law (e.g. as authorised food additives). The transfer of
30 these active substance/substances should not be included in the calculation of the overall
31 migration limit (OML) ([EC No. 10/2011](#); [EU Regulation No. 450/2009](#)). For materials such
32 as paper and board for which the specific requirements are not regulated at EU level existing
33 national legislation should be applied ([EU Regulation No. 450/2009](#)). Intelligent systems
34 that are on the non-food contact surface of the package can be separated from the foodstuff
35 by a functional barrier, i.e. a barrier to any migration. If it is demonstrated that the packaging
36 material acts as a functional barrier to migration then non-authorised substances can be used
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4 providing they meet specific criteria defined in the Regulation (EU Regulation No.
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6 450/2009).
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10 11 12 *ENPs per se migration from active¹⁰ packaging into foodstuffs*

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16 The current challenges facing active packaging implementation are due to a potential migration¹¹
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18 of ENPs which, unlike traditional packaging (totally inert), are added to extend the shelf life or
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20 to maintain or improve the condition of packaged food. Hence, safety assessment of ENPs used
21
22 in food packaging first requires an understanding of potential exposure via migration into food.
23
24 If there is no exposure, it follows there is no risk of adverse effects in consumers. Migration of
25
26 ENPs from polymer composites into food or food simulants has been assessed by various authors
27
28 using standard migration tests. These tests are European and USA (FDA) standardised methods
29
30 used to evaluate migration from food packaging, and are carried out using different food
31
32 simulant solutions characterised by varying levels of water solubility and acidity (*see an*
33
34 *overview of standard migration tests for food packaging from two jurisdictions in **Table 1***).
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36 Although, these tests were originally developed for plastic materials, they can be applied also to
37
38 other materials printed or unprinted. In the case of paper and board, the standard liquid
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49 ¹⁰ Metal (oxide): ENPs.

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51 ¹¹ Migration refers to the release of a substance from one medium to another, in other words is
52
53 the unintentional transfer of packaging materials into the food. This problem may influence the
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55 food's safety and, subsequently, consumers' health (Torres et al., 2012). Nevertheless, in some
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57 active packaging, ENPs are intended to be released deliberately. Hence, performing migration
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59 tests under controlled conditions is essential for safety problems.
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4 simulants are not suitable, as they penetrate into the material. They are therefore replaced
5
6 by modified polyphenylene oxide (Tenax) according to a European standard BS EN14338 [2003](#).

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9 *The state of science up to date* revealed that there are various issues that complicate the
10
11 interpretation of ENPs migration studies from food/food packaging. One of this issue being the
12
13 uncertainty in the ability of the analytical techniques used to detect nanoparticles *per se* in
14
15 food/food simulants (*see* detailed information at section “[Analytical techniques for quantification](#)
16
17 [of nanoparticles per se as well as migration of these from food contact materials](#) “ as well as
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19 **Table 2**).
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29 *The main factors that control migration*

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32 Following Fick’s first law of diffusion, the substance will migrate due to a concentration gradient
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34 between both mediums ([Simon et al., 2008](#)). If there are no ENPs present in the food, any ENPs
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36 that are loosely bound in the food packaging will migrate from the packaging to the food. This
37
38 occurs due to the lower concentration of ENPs in the food which drives migration. Others factors
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40 that affect migration apart concentration gradient, include: the ENPs’ properties (e.g. particle
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42 size, molecular weight, solubility, and diffusivity in the polymer); environmental conditions
43
44 (temperature, mechanical stress); food conditions (pH value ([Metak et al., 2015](#)), composition);
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46 packaging characteristics (polymer structure and viscosity); position of the ENPs in the
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48 packaging material, interaction between the ENPs and the material; and contact time ([Noonan et](#)
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50 [al., 2014](#); [Huang et al., 2015](#); [Hannon et al., 2015](#)). For instance, higher temperatures and lower
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52 pH values increase the solubility of ENPs in aqueous solution, leading to an increase in their
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54 migration ([Song et al., 2011](#)). Low molecular weight polymers that have more free volume
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4 accelerate the migration rate and ENPs diffusivity (Schmidt et al., 2011). There also is an
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6 inverse relationship between the migration rate of the system and the size of the ENPs (Cushen et
7
8 al., 2014). If the nature of the food is compatible with the type of packaging, the food itself may
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10 be absorbed into the polymer matrix, enlarging the gaps between the polymer chains, thereby
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12 increasing the migration rate (Huang et al., 2015). For example, fats have high affinity for
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14 polyethylene and polypropylene, so they may be absorbed by the packaging and cause an
15
16 increase in plastic mobility and higher migration rates (Huang et al., 2015). The preservation
17
18 method of foods also is important and can affect ENPs' migration. It has been reported that
19
20 microwave heating cause structural modification of the packaging, thereby speeding up the
21
22 migration of silver ions (Echegoyen et al., 2013). High surface volume ratios in nanomaterials
23
24 induce an active surface chemistry followed by probably unwanted chemical reactions. This
25
26 would be troublesome if their presence in the packaging enhances the formation of unforeseen
27
28 reaction by-products during processing (Bradley et al., 2011). ENPs also can impact the
29
30 migration of other packaging constituents, either speeding up or slowing down their migration.
31
32 The migration potential and diffusion mechanisms for ENPs from food packaging materials is an
33
34 area of nanotechnology which has not received the same attention as such areas as nano-aerosols
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36 (Savolainen et al., 2010) and nano-medicines (Lether et al., 2013).
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50 *Standard migration tests*

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53 This article is not meant to provide an exhaustive review of European and USA standard
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55 migration tests; but it is intended to provide the reader an indication of what is involved in food
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57 packaging migration testing. Standard migration tests are conducted with food simulants under
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4 certainly time and temperature conditions which are chosen according to the type of food that
5
6 will be packaged. These standard migration methods are used to measure the ‘overall’ or
7
8 ‘specific migration’, which is compared to the respective limits. The standard methods, although
9
10 were originally developed for plastic materials, may be modified to cover specialist uses, for e.g.
11
12 for use in microwave ovens, and more than that it might be modified also for printed or
13
14 unprinted materials; paper and board.

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19 *The overall migration limit* (OML) means the maximum permitted amount of non-volatile
20
21 substances released from a material or article into food simulants ([EC No. 10/2011](#)). Thus, is
22
23 used to clarify that no packaging additive or contaminate migrates from the packaging to food.
24

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26 *The specific migration limit* (SML) is defined as the maximum permitted level of a named
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28 substance migrating from the final material or article into food or food simulants ([EC No.](#)
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30 [10/2011](#)).
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33 In migration testing, only those parts of the sample intended to come into contact with
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35 foodstuffs in actual use should ideally be in contact with the simulant. With a focus on
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37 presenting a worst case migration scenario¹² as well as a most likely scenario, multiple
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39 packaging and environmental factors have been investigated mainly storage time, storage
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41 temperature, ENPs percentage fill and ENPs size. Natural light has the potential to degrade
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43 polymers via photo-oxidation and increase migration of substances from those polymers in
44
45 applications involving long term exposure ([Kumar et al., 2009](#)). Anyway, due to the short
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47 exposure period for food packaging in service it is unlikely that natural light will cause
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49 significant deterioration and have any effect on migration.
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59 _____
60 ¹² i.e. a total immersion test, in which both inner and outer surfaces are in contact with the food
61 simulant.
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4 **Figure 1** display a standardized migration cell with double function, i.e. (i) specific/overall
5 migration for **mono-materials** testing, and (ii) specific/overall migration for **multi-layer**
6 **materials** testing. If a food packaging article is intended to come into repeated contact with
7 foodstuffs, migration tests are typically carried out three times on the same test sample, using a
8 fresh sample of food simulant on each occasion. However, if there is conclusive evidence that
9 the level of migration does not increase in the second and third test and if the migration limit is
10 not exceeded on the first test, no further test is necessary JECFA 2007. Addition, according to
11 EN 13130-1:2004 (E) ([EN 13130-1:2004](#)) where the surface-to-volume ratio to be used in
12 contact with food **is known** this shall be used in the migration tests. An example of this is where
13 a bottle or other container is intended to contain a specified volume of contents, even if this does
14 not completely fill the article. In this case the article shall be tested with the specified volume of
15 simulant. Where the surface-to-volume ratio to be used in contact with foodstuff **is not known**,
16 conventional exposure conditions shall be used, i.e. 0.6 dm² of surface area of plastics in contact
17 with 100 g of foodstuff or 100 ml of food simulant, in both tests: total immersion as well as
18 single surface using a cell. But, according to EN 1186-1:2002 ([EN 1186-1:2002](#)), the surface to
19 volume ratio in a total immersion test is typically 1 dm² of food contact area to 100 ml of food
20 simulant, and for single surface test using a cell, the surface to volume ratio is conventionally 2.5
21 dm² of food contact area to 125 ml of food simulant ([EN 1186-1:2002](#)).

Figure 1

Table 1

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54 The European Commission has published a Union list of authorised substances for use in
55 manufacturing polymer food contact materials ([EC No. 10/2011](#)). The ENPs included in the list
56 are ([EC No. 10/2011](#); [Chaudhry et al., 2008](#)): e.g. nano-clay, titanium nitride, nano-silver,
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4 silanated silicon dioxide, titanium oxide, zinc oxide, iron oxide. **Table 2** display *the state of*
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6 *science up to date* of the ENPs migration from polymer food packaging to foodstuffs/food
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8 simulants.
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11 **Nano-silver:** Ag nanoparticles are currently used in more manufacturer identified products than
12
13 any other nanomaterial (Luoma 2008). Up to date, there are least 435 products that utilize some
14
15 form of nanosilver for their function (Vance et al., 2015): textiles (socks and linens),
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17 cosmetics/hygiene products (toothpastes, make-ups), appliances (washing machines and
18
19 refrigerators), cleaning agents (detergents, soaps), toys and building materials (paints, caulks,
20
21 glues), as well as into a range of packaging and food contact materials (nanosilver is often
22
23 incorporated into coatings on products including food storage containers, mugs, dishes, cutlery,
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25 chopping boards, etc where the antimicrobial action occurs at the surface), including polymer
26
27 nanocomposites for ‘active’ packaging to improve the shelf-life of food or beverages through its
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29 antimicrobial properties (nanosilver has been found to be a potent antimicrobial against
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31 numerous species of bacteria including E. Coli, Enterococcus faecalis, Staphylococcus aureus
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33 and epidermidis, Vibrio cholera, Pseudomonas aeruginosa and putida and fluorescens and
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35 oleovorans, Shigella flexneri, Bacillus anthracis and subtilisi and cereus, Proteus mirabilis,
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37 Salmonella enterica Typhmurium, Micrococcus luteus, Listeria monocytogenes, and Klebsiella
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39 pneumoniae (Duncan 2011; Hajipour et al., 2012; Gaillet et al., 2015; Pulit-Prociak et al., 2015).
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41 Nanosilver is also effective against strains of these organisms that are resistance to potent
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43 chemical antimicrobials, as well as being toxic to fungi (Hannon et al., 2015; Duncan 2011;
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45 Mohammed Fayaz et al., 2003). The use of Ag nanoparticles as an antimicrobial, antiodor, and a
46
47 health supplement has already surpassed all other engineered nanomaterials currently in use in
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49 different sectors (Luoma 2008). In the European Union, silver is permitted for use in food
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4 colouring (E174 - only allowed for external coating of confectionary, decoration of chocolates,
5 and in liqueurs) (EU Council Directive 94/36/EC 1994). According to GMP, it is also approved
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7 in Australia and New Zealand for use as a food additive in confectionary, spirits and liqueurs
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9 (GMP 2015).
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14 Current research indicates the antimicrobial action of nanosilver is caused by the release of
15 silver ions from the surface of particles (Cushen et al., 2013; de Azeredo et al., 2013). Hence, in
16 order to be effective, Ag nanoparticles must migrate from food contact materials. In the light of
17 these mentioned, a **compromise** must be made between the level of migration and antimicrobial
18 activity (Hannon et al., 2015). It has been argued that the perceived increased antimicrobial
19 effectiveness of nanosilver compared to conventional particles is not necessarily a result of
20 increased cell toxicity, but rather a result of increased reactive surface area available for
21 oxidation of silver into silver ions (Hannon et al., 2015). Migration of silver into foods from
22 silver containing materials is regulated in the European Union by a specific migration limit
23 (SML) of **0.05 mg/kg** food or food simulant (EFSA 2004; EFSA 2005). It has been estimated
24 that adults may consume between 20 and 80 µg/day of silver, with only a fraction of this being in
25 the form of nanoparticles (Wu et al., 2014).
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43 *Nano-clay*: Polymer nanocomposites incorporating nano-clay are among the first known
44 applications of nanomaterial for food packaging (FAO/WHO 2009). The nano-clay used most
45 commonly is montmorillonite (i.e. bentonite), a natural clay commonly obtained from volcanic
46 ash/rocks (Hannon et al., 2015; Enescu et al., 2019). Montmorillonite (**Figure 2**) is a hydrated
47 magnesium aluminum silicate layered clay, which belongs to the general family of 2:1 layered
48 silicates. Its crystal structure consists of edge-shared octahedral sheets of either magnesium or
49 aluminum-hydroxide, between two silica tetrahedral layers. The isomorphous substitution in the
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4 nanoclay layers creates a net negative surface charge distributed within the plane of the clay
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6 platelets. The imbalance of the negative charges at the surface is compensated by exchangeable
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8 cations (typically alkali or alkaline earth cations), located between the platelets (galleries). The
9
10 parallel layers are linked together by weak electrostatic forces. When montmorillonite is
11
12 introduced into a polymer matrix, the non-permeable inorganic crystal structure of the nanofiller
13
14 is expected to cause a decrease in permeability of gases due to a longer and more tortuous
15
16 pathway (Enescu et al., 2015; Enescu et al., 2019). Thus this peculiar property, i.e. restriction of
17
18 the permeation of gases, has led to its use in food packaging for a variety of food and drinks, e.g.
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20 processed cheese, meats, cereals, fruit juices, dairy products, co-extrusion processes for
21
22 manufacturing bottles for beer and carbonated drinks (Chaudhry et al., 2008; de Abreu et al.,
23
24 2010; Mahalik and Nambiar 2010).

30 31 **Figure 2**

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34 In the European Union, bentonite clay is authorised as an additive for plastic materials and
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36 articles in contact with foods with no specific restrictions (EC No. 10/2011). The substance is
37
38 also an approved food additive (E558) included in European Directive 95/2/EC (Directive
39
40 95/2/EC 1995).

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43 It can be used as a carrier for colours with a maximum of **5 % w/w in food**, and is generally
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45 recognised as safe (GRAS) in the United States (CFR 2014). In Australia and New Zealand,
46
47 bentonite is approved as a food additive in processed foods according to GMP. No JECFA
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49 toxicological monograph has been prepared for bentonite. However information on the hazards
50
51 of aluminium may be applicable since bentonite contains high amounts of aluminium. Previously
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53 the Scientific Committee for Food (SCF) evaluated the safety of aluminium containing food
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4 additives in 1990 at which time they endorsed the Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake (PTWI¹³)
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6 of 7 mg/kg bw for aluminium for all intake sources. Recently, JECFA reevaluated aluminium
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8 from all sources, including food additives, and established a PTWI of 1 mg/kg bw which is 7
9
10 times lower than the previous PTWI (JECFA 2007).
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14 ***Titanium nitride (TiN)***: TiN is a very hard compound, with hardness comparable to steel; it is
15
16 insoluble in water and stable against cold acids, has a high melting point (3000 °C) but at
17
18 temperatures > 500° C it may form titanium oxides in air. Titanium nitride nanoparticles are
19
20 authorised for use as an additive or polymer production aid, specifically to be used as reheat
21
22 additive in the production of PET bottles for its thermal stability (up to **20 mg/kg**). The listing
23
24 states no migration of the nanoparticles into food is allowed, and the agglomerates are to have a
25
26 diameter of 100-500 nm consisting of primary titanium nitride nanoparticles with a diameter of
27
28 approximately 20 nm. The safety assessment underpinning this evaluation was based on no
29
30 migration of Ti having been observed in standard migration experiments. As a result, the
31
32 European Food Safety Authority concluded the nanoparticulate substance would not give rise to
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34 consumer exposure via food, therefore it is not of toxicological concern (EFSA 2012; EFSA
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36 2008).
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43 ***Silanated silicon dioxide (SiO₂)***: SiO₂ (silanisation of silica refers to reacting silicon dioxide
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45 with methoxy or ethoxy molecules to form alkoxy silane molecules. When these are applied to
46
47 surfaces it increases the hydrophobicity and generally reduces the adsorption of other molecules
48
49 to the surface. Alkoxy silanes are also used to silanise glassware to reduce adherence of cells to
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54 ¹³ PTWI was based on a study in which no treatment-related effects were observed in beagle dogs
55
56 given diets containing sodium aluminium phosphate (acidic) at a concentration of 3 % for 189
57
58 days, equivalent to approximately 110 mg/kg by aluminium (JECFA 2007), established
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60 previously by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA 1988).
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4 the surface). Silanated silicon dioxide was authorised in 1999 in Europe to be used as an additive
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6 for the manufacture of plastic food contact materials and is currently listed in the Union list of
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8 EU Regulation 10/2011 ([EC No. 10/2011](#)). Although this entry “silanated silicon dioxide” is not
9
10 for nanoparticles *per se*, EFSA (2014) ([EFSA 2014](#)). was recently informed that the substance
11
12 had always been produced using synthetic amorphous silica in nano-form. Amorphous SiO₂ has
13
14 been used for many years in food applications, such as for clearing beers and wines, as
15
16 anticaking agent to maintain flow properties in powder food products and to thicken pastes
17
18 ([Dekkers et al., 2011](#)), and as a carrier for fragrances or flavors in food and nanofood products
19
20 ([OECD, Regulation \(EC\) No. 1333/2008](#)). The conventional form of SiO₂ is known as the food
21
22 additive E551. The majority of particles in food-grade SiO₂ ingredients (E551) are usually in the
23
24 100 to 1000 nm range, but there may also be a significant population of smaller particles. The
25
26 EFSA Panel ([EFSA 2014](#)) concluded silanated SiO₂ does not raise a safety concern for the
27
28 consumer in the currently authorised conditions of use. Silanised SiO₂ nanoparticles in the
29
30 stomach will be subject to acid hydrolysis. Hence, according to EFSA exposures to SiO₂ equating
31
32 to 700 mg Si/day (i.e. 12 mg Si/kg/d) in food supplements and typical dietary intakes of 20-50
33
34 mg Si/day (i.e. 0.3-0.8 mg/kg/d) are of no safety concern ([EFSA 2009](#)). [Dekkers et al., \(2011\)](#)
35
36 estimated that the food products including E551 contain nanosilica ranged from <0.1–6.9 mg/g
37
38 product based on the total silica concentration, where the particles sizes were ranging from 30–
39
40 200 nm. The authors estimated that intake of SiO₂ nanoparticles based on consumption of food
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42 products analyzed for their nanosilica or silica concentration is about 124 mg/day.
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53 ***Titanium dioxide (TiO₂)***: TiO₂ is naturally occurring and poorly soluble. TiO₂ is in the top five
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55 of nanoparticles used in consumer products ([Shukla et al., 2011](#)), accounting for 70 % of the total
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57 production volume of pigments ([Baan et al., 2006](#)) and consumed annually at about 4 million
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4 tons worldwide ([Ortlieb et al., 2010](#)). TiO₂ has been used for decades ([Shukla et al., 2011](#)) as a
5
6 pigment for food colouring (i.e. to provide characteristic optical properties such as increased
7
8 brightness and/or whitening) or added to granular and powdered foods as anti-caking agents
9
10 ([Lomer et al., 2011](#)). There is no evidence of Ti being an essential element for human beings or
11
12 animals. The Ti compound concentration in drinking water is generally low. A typical diet may
13
14 contribute 300–400 µg/day ([Shi et al., 2013](#)).
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19 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius approved
20
21 TiO₂ as a food color additive (E171) in Europe and US with the stipulation that the additive
22
23 should not to exceed **1% w/w**, and without the need to include it on the ingredient label ([EC](#)
24
25 [1994](#); [FDA 2002](#); [FDA 2015](#)). In Australia, it is approved as pigment for use in processed human
26
27 foods in accordance with Good Manufacture Practice (GMP) ([Standard 1.3.1 2013](#)).
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31 The **nano-form** of TiO₂ is **not an approved additive for food**, however the grade used in food
32
33 does not have any particle size specifications. Studies have shown it may contain up to
34
35 approximately 36 % of particles in the nanoscale ([Weir et al., 2012](#)). Therefore the presence of
36
37 ‘nano-TiO₂’ in food is not new. The estimated dietary exposure of humans to TiO₂ nanoparticles
38
39 has been reported to be up to 1.1 and 2.2 mg/kg body weight/day in the UK and US, respectively
40
41 ([Weir et al., 2012](#)). It is noteworthy that the amount of TiO₂ nanoparticles consumed was 2–4
42
43 times higher for children than for adults, which may be due to the fact that products heavily
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45 consumed by children had some of the highest levels of TiO₂ nanoparticles, such as gums¹⁴,
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4 candies, desserts, and beverages. A recent study found that candies, sweets and chewing gums
5
6 contained the highest amount of TiO₂ in the scale of < 100 nm (Weir et al., 2012). Chewing one
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8 piece of chewing gum can result in an intake of 1.5–5.1 mg of TiO₂ nanoparticles (Chen et al.,
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Smaller TiO₂ particles have higher UV-blocking properties, which can be advantageous for food storage (Lin et al., 2011) as well as nanosized TiO₂ prevents microbial growth (Ge et al., 2012). TiO₂-coated packaging film has been shown to considerably reduce E. coli contamination of food surfaces (Chawengkijwanich et al., 2008) and has also been shown to disinfect water from fecal coliform (Gelover et al., 2006).

Zinc oxide (ZnO): ZnO is another commonly used particle with similar utility to TiO₂. ZnO nanoparticles are widely used in various applications including cosmetics, paints, as drug carriers and fillings in medical materials (Dufour et al., 2006). ZnO nanoparticles may be used as a



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4 source of zinc in nutritional supplements (such as multivitamins (Wiking et al., 2008), and
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6 functional foods, since this is an essential trace element, needed to maintain human health and
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8 wellbeing, with an average requirement of up to 10.2 mg/day for women and up to 12.7 mg/day
9
10 for men (Wang et al. 2014; EFSA NDA Panel 2014). ZnO nanoparticles may also be utilized in
11
12 food packaging as antimicrobial agents to prevent contamination of foods with harmful bacteria
13
14 (Sirelkhatim et al., 2015) or as ultraviolet (UV) light absorbers to protect foods that are sensitive
15
16 to UV light exposure (EFSA 2016). ZnO exhibits antibacterial activity that increases with
17
18 decreasing particle size (Yammamoto 2001), which could be stimulated by visible light
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20 (Esmaeillou et al., 2013). In addition, ZnO effectively absorbs UV light without re-emitting it as
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22 heat and therefore improves the stability of polymer composites.
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29 Zinc oxide in bulk form is authorised in Europe as an additive for plastic materials and articles
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31 in contact with food with a SML of **25 mg/kg** food or food simulant (as zinc) (EC No. 10/2011).
32
33 Recently, the European Commission (EC) published in 2016 the Regulation (EU) No 2016/1416
34
35 (EC Regulation 1416/2016) amending and correcting the Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic
36
37 materials and articles intended to come into contact with food ('The Plastics Regulation') (EC
38
39 No. 10/2011). Hence, in 2016, EFSA Regulation (EU) No 2016/1416 required a specific
40
41 migration limit applicable to ionic zinc already limited into (EU) 10/2011, and set a new specific
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43 migration limit (SML) of **5 mg/kg** food or food simulant express as zinc.
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49 **Iron oxide:** Fe₂O₃ nanoparticles may be utilized in foods as colorants or as a health
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51 supplement, and is used also in the treatment of contaminated water, where it is claimed to
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53 decontaminate water by breaking down organic pollutants and killing microbial pathogens (Wu et
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55 al., 2014; Raspopov et al., 2011; Hilty et al., 2010). The range of applications of iron oxide as a
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57 food colorant in the United States are highly limited, i.e., up to **0.1 wt %** in sausages as part of
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casings (WHO 2000). It was estimated that the mean intake of iron oxide from consumers of these products was around 450 µg/day (WHO 2000). However, the levels of iron consumed may be considerably higher for consumers who take mineral-fortified supplements or functional foods (Fulgoni et al., 2011). For example, iron taken in the form of enriched/fortified foods ranges from 10 to 23 mg/day, while that from dietary supplements may range from 10 to 32 mg/day (Fulgoni et al., 2011). Fe₂O₃ is authorised in Europe as an additive for plastic materials and articles in contact with food with a SML of **48 mg/kg** food or food simulant (as iron) (EC No. 10/2011).

Nano sized calcium and magnesium: Nano-calcium salts are the subject of patent applications (Sustech GMBH and Co. 2003) for intended use in chewing gums. Nano-calcium and nano-magnesium salts are also available as health supplements (Erfanian et al., 2017).

Nano sized selenium: Nano-selenium is being marketed as an additive to a green tea product, with a number of (proclaimed) health benefits resulting from enhanced uptake of selenium (Vera et al., 2018). Recently, Bai et al., (2017) proposed nano-selenium encapsulated into polysaccharide matrices as a potential candidate for Se supplement with antioxidant properties and be used against Se deficiency in animals and human beings.

Table 2

Mathematic and numerical modelling applied for predicting the migration of ENPs from

FCMs

Basically the right way to assess the exposure to a substance contained in a FCMs is to conduct a migration test in which the concentration of the migrated substances in a food is measured under prescribed conditions. Nevertheless, it is not always practical to perform migration experiments

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4 because they can be challenging, expensive, time consuming and difficult to generalize. In the
5
6 light of the above mentioned, mathematic/numerical migration modelling might be a valuable
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8 tool; a mathematical model provides an analytical formula containing a compact relationship
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10 between relevant variables in a system. Numerical models are applied in situations where
11
12 mathematical models cannot be solved analytically and involve an interactive computational
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14 procedure (Barnes et al., 2010). Therefore, mathematical and numerical models can be highly
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16 beneficial when used for ENPs migration modeling as they can produce comparable migration
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18 results, for a range of different system conditions. There is the potential for mathematical and
19
20 numerical models to be used as an alternative for costly and time consuming migration studies.
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26 [Simon et al., \(2008\)](#) reported a mathematical model which focusses *specifically* on ENPs
27
28 migration from polymer food packaging to food. The interphase between the packaging and food
29
30 was assumed to present no obstacle to the migration of ENPs. So, in their work was predicted
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32 migration of nanoparticles¹⁵ *per se* from packaging to food would occur only when very small
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34 nanoparticles (i.e. ~1 nm) are embedded in polymer matrices which have low dynamic
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36 viscosities (e.g. polyolefins such as LDPE, HDPE, and PP) and do not interact with the
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38 nanoparticles. Such conditions could be met by nano-silver with polyolefins composite, but not
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40 by nano-silver with polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polystyrene (PS) composites, nor by
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42 any surface-modified nano-clay embedded in polymer matrices ([Simon et al., 2008](#)). After
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44 developing a particle volume (size) related migration model, other authors ([Bott et al., 2014](#))
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46 (based on an existing model for migration of conventional plastic additives ([Simon et al., 2008](#)))
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54 ¹⁵ The type of ENPs was not accounted for, instead the size of ENPs and the viscous properties
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56 of the polymer were used to generate equations for the migratability, diffusion rate and
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58 amount of migrating particles ([Simon et al., 2008](#)).
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4 came to similar conclusion. The modelling suggested only the smallest spherical ENPs up to 3.5
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6 nm in diameter may result in measurable migration, if present at high concentrations in a
7
8 polymer. Thus, consumer exposure to ENPs via migration from food contact plastics into foods
9
10 is not expected according to [Bott et al., \(2014\)](#).
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13
14 [Cuchen et al., \(2014\)](#) developed a mathematic migration model (Williams-Landel-Ferry
15
16 equation for time-temperature superposition) of ENPs, i.e. silver and copper; the study revealed
17
18 that the percentage of ENPs in the FCMs was one of the most curial parameters driving
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20 migration, more so than particle size, temperature, or contact time.
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24 Nevertheless, [Noonan et al., \(2014\)](#) have emphasized that till experimental methods are
25
26 sufficiently developed to generate reliable ENPs migration data for FCMs, such theoretical
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28 models as described above cannot be validated and are only of academic relevance.
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32 Numerical models dealing with ENPs migration from packaging to food are lacking. To date, a
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34 numerical model presented by [von Goetz et al., \(2013\)](#) is the only model which deals with ENPs
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36 migration from food packaging. The model assumes Fickian diffusion and takes account of the
37
38 ENPs diffusion from within the polymer to the plastic/liquid interphase.
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42 The affect that the penetration of food has on migration of particles from food packaging is a
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44 major factor that has been intentionally neglected in all the aforementioned migration models.
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49 *Standardized food model*

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52 [Zhang et al., \(2019\)](#) proposed for the first time a standardized food model (SFM) for evaluating
53
54 the toxicity and fate of ingested ENPs. So its efficacy was assessed by examining the impact of
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56 food matrix on the toxicity of TiO₂ nanoparticles. The formulation of the SFM was based on the
57
58 average nutrient composition of the U.S. diet (proteins, fats, dietary fibers, and carbohydrates at
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4 levels typically found in the human diet): 3.4% protein (sodium caseinate); 4.6% sugar (sucrose);
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6 5.2% digestible carbohydrate (modified corn starch); 0.7% dietary fiber (pectin); 3.4% fat (corn
7
8 oil); and, 0.5% minerals (sodium chloride). The SFM consisted of an oil-in-water emulsion
9
10 suitable for use in both wet and dried forms. SFM was passed through a commonly used
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12 simulated gastrointestinal model and changes in its structural properties were characterized. The
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14 main food components in the SFM were shown to be digested when exposed to the digestive
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16 enzymes in the simulated GIT. The authors showed that the potential toxicity of the ENPs, such
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18 as TiO₂ nanoparticles, was reduced in the presence of the SFM, which highlighted the
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20 importance of food matrix effects.
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26 This information should be useful when designing experiments to test food matrix effects on
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28 the gastrointestinal fate and toxicity of ENPs. In particular, the availability of a standardized food
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30 model will facilitate the comparison of results obtained on food matrix effects from different
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32 laboratories.
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40 *Analytical techniques for quantification of ENPs per se as well as their migration from FCMs*

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42 Quantification of migrated ENPs from FCMs is a very important issue because of the safety
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44 concerns of these. The lack of exhaustive and complete toxicological data (*see* detailed
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46 information at section “[Toxicological data. The current challenges faced by implementation of](#)
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48 [the active food packaging-associated engineered nanoparticles](#)”) is also due to the actual
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50 difficulty to characterize, detect and measure ENPs *per se* and in complex matrices like food
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52 ([Tiede et al., 2008](#)). Hence, discussing the potential risks of ENPs for consumers requires
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54 thorough insight about their characteristics ([Huang et al., 2015](#)). For the characterization of
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4 nanocomposite structures, aspects that are more likely to be considered are particle dispersion,
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6 changes in the mass matrix, and the type of particle-polymer interface (Arora et al., 2010).
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9 In the migration test, the specimen to be tested is brought into (i) single-sided contact (multi-
10 layer materials) or (ii) double-sided contact (mono-materials) with food simulants (see **Figure**
11 **1**). After exposure, the simulant is analyzed by different methods to detect the quantitative as
12 well as qualitative presence of ENPs; there is no “stand-alone” technique for their detection in
13 practical applications. A recently published overview of measurement methods for evaluation of
14 ENPs *per se* (Mourdikoudis et al., 2018) as well as ENPs *per se* released from food contact
15 materials is given by Peters and Hoekstra (2019); Noonan et al., (2014). Due to the inherent
16 properties of ENPs, the detection of ENPs in complex media like foods and food simulants can
17 be very problematic (Singh et al., 2014). ENPs show poor dispersion stability when they are
18 dispersed in an inappropriate medium. The nature of the surrounding matrix strongly determines
19 whether ENPs remain stable in dispersion or are “lost” either due to dissolution of particles or
20 sedimentation (Blasco et al., 2011). Furthermore, for an unambiguous detection of ENPs in
21 complex matrices, the analytical technique must allow a clear distinction or separation of ENPs
22 from other interfering matrix components. Therefore, detecting the migration of ENPs into food
23 matrices requires sensitive analytical techniques due to the complexity of the ENPs, and their
24 representing only a very small portion of the bulk food. Thus, detection of ENPs in complex
25 matrices, such as food, is a challenging task which requires combined methodologies, since no
26 individual techniques can give all the detailed information. Spectroscopic, microscopic and
27 quantitative analytical techniques are all useful for this purpose. For quantitative determination,
28 only few techniques are available, which may allow sensitive and selective detection and
29 characterisation of ENPs. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM), transmission electron
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4 microscopy (TEM) and atomic force microscopy (AFM) are good examples of microscopic
5 methods, each of which has its own advantages and disadvantages. By these methods,
6
7 nanoparticles' general features, such as size, shape, structure, dispersion, and aggregation state,
8
9 are accessible. Nevertheless, these techniques usually are destructive, meaning that verification
10 tests for a better analysis are not feasible on the same sample (Huang et al., 2015). Other
11
12 technique can be use also for size investigation: Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS), single particle
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14 Inductive Couple Plasma Mass Spectroscopy (sp-ICP-MS), Field Flow Fractionation (FFF),
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16 FFF-ICP-MS. Spectroscopic techniques, such as UV-vis spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction
17
18 (XRD), can be used for characterization and analysis of ENPs as well. The supporting method
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20 UV-vis spectroscopy has been used extensively due to its cost effectiveness and ease of
21
22 operation. This technique confers information about the presence of nanoparticles (Huang et al.,
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24 2015). XRD, both wide angle (WAXS) and small angle (SAXS), are the conventional methods
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26 that are used to examine nanocomposite structures (Arora et al., 2010). Elemental composition or
27
28 the crystalline arrangement of nanomaterials, both in natural and engineered form, can be
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30 investigated by the XRD techniques (Huang et al., 2015; Sharma et al., 2012). Despite
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32 microscopic methods, this technique is not destructive, and there is no need for difficult sample
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34 pre-treatment. These attributes contribute to its extensive application in the characterization of
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36 materials (Huang et al., 2015; Alexandre et al., 2000; Koo et al., 2006). Combination of TEM
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38 with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX), apart particle shape, size and aggregates
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40 structures information, allows analysis of the chemical composition (Smith 2007), but data
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42 evaluation is very elaborate and time-consuming. More suitable analytical techniques is
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44 asymmetric flow field-flow fractionation (AF4) either coupled with a multi angle light scattering
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46 (MALS) or dynamic light scattering (DLS) detector which allows separation of nanomaterials
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4 according to their size and to measure particle size distributions accurately (Schmidt et al., 2009;
5 Baalousha et al., 2006; Fraunhofer et al., 2004; Kammer et al., 2005). To acquire chemical
6 information AF4 can be coupled with element specific technique, like inductively coupled
7 plasma¹⁶ - atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES/ICP-OES), inductive coupled plasma - mass
8 spectroscopy (ICP-MS) (Montoro Bustos et al., 2013; Loeschner et al., 2015), which are three
9 important techniques for quantification and elemental analyses (Huang et al., 2015). The
10 advantages of these methods include their high selectivity, sensitivity, and accuracy. Using these
11 methods, ENPs can be detected in amounts as low as 0.1-10 ppm (Huang et al., 2015).
12 Introducing ENPs into the ICP, a beam of gaseous ions is produced by the atoms of the analyte
13 in the plasma, resulting in an individual pulse measured by the detector, which appears as a peak
14 on the graph (Echegoyen et al., 2013). Prior to injecting the sample, a digestion process is
15 required because the presence of food components could impede good atomization of the sample
16 (Huang et al., 2015). In addition, basic ICP-MS does not differentiate between nanosized
17 element metal and metal ions, which for e.g. in case of nanosilver migration studies means
18 dissolved silver ions and dispersed silver in its particulate form (Fabricius et al., 2014). Whereas,
19 sp-ICP-MS is a analytical technique able to distinguish quantitatively between dissolved (ionic
20 material) and particulate species (Mackevica et al., 2016; Laborda et al., 2014; Laborda et al.,
21 2011; Mitrano et al., 2012; von Goetz et al., 2016) in one analyses. However, according to
22 Fabricius et al., (2014) and Olesik et al., (2012) there are some limitations of this technique. In
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52 ¹⁶ Inductively coupled plasma spectrometer is well-suited for trace detection of metals in solution,
53 in which a liquid sample is injected into argon gas plasma contained by a strong magnetic field.
54 The elements in the sample become excited and the electrons emit energy at a characteristic
55 wavelength as they return to ground state. The emitted light is then measured by optical
56 spectrometry; method known as ICP-OES or ICP-AES.
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4 case of metal species which reversibly can change the oxidation state from metal (0) to metal
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6 ions (+1 or +2) depending on the chemical environment (e.g. incompatible matrices, e.g. organic
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8 solvents; ENPs with broad particle size distributions), sp-ICP-MS can even be misleading and
9
10 lead to false conclusions. E.g. in the case of silver nanoparticles, one of the most frequently
11
12 investigated polymer nanocomposite systems, migrating silver (+1) ions may either be reduced
13
14 to silver (0) particles during the migration test or sample handling and then be false-positive
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16 measured as migrated silver nanoparticles by sp-ICP-MS (Turioniemi 2013; Gover et al., 2011;
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18 Ntim et al., 2016).

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23 An alternative approach to ICP is atomic absorption spectroscopy (AAS) for the detection of
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25 ENPs. In many cases, AAS is used for the quantitative determination of chemical elements
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27 within samples, such as food, by measuring the absorption of optical radiation (light) by free
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29 atoms in the gaseous state. However, analysis of more than one element is not possible by AAS
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31 (Liu et al., 2012).

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35 In short, there is no “stand-alone” technique for the detection and characterizations of
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37 nanomaterials in practical applications. More than that, taking into account that the environment
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39 can also affects nanoparticles properties, the approach is even more complicated with complex
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41 matrices where also sample preparation becomes a determinative step. Complex matrices usually
42
43 contain different type of nanoparticles that can interfere with the analytical detection. At the
44
45 same time, sample clean up and preparation might lead to artefacts (e.g. aggregates among
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47 particles, aggregate among particles and food proteins or lipids, particle dissolution) and
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49 therefore modify the original state of the sample. Thus, the appropriate sample work preparation
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51 are crucial for quantitative measurements of nanomaterials. All these aspects and the lack of
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4 reference materials for a large number of food/particle combinations make the development and
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6 validation of analytical methods to detect ENPs in food still a challenging and ongoing issue.
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13 ***Toxicological aspects. The current challenges faced by implementation of the active food***
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15 ***packaging-associated engineered nanoparticles***
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18 The potential risks of the ENPs embedded into FCMs on the consumer 'health is connected to
19 their possible migration from food/beverage packaging into foodstuff; thus the main concern is
20 that, ENPs are not normally eaten and metabolized. Furthermore, nanoparticles are able to enter
21 the cells, tissues and organs of our bodies much more easily than their microscale counterparts
22 (larger particles).
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31 Ironically, although the active food packaging-associated engineered nanoparticles offer new
32 opportunities, e.g. the extension of the shelf-life of foodstuff, might also pose new risks to
33 human health and the environment (*see* below an overview of these statements).
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40 ***Overview on Food “nano-fabricate” by nature vs ENPs in food industry***
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43 Nanotechnology in food industry covers three classes of nanomaterials: (i) natural and processed
44 nanostructures in foods; (ii) particulate nanomaterials metabolized or excreted on digestion; and
45 (iii) particulate nanomaterials not broken down on digestion, which accumulate in the body.
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50 Natural nanostructures are not regarded as products of nanotechnology, and they need to be
51 differentiated from deliberately manufactured nanomaterials when considering regulatory
52 requirements and definitions ([Cockburn et al., 2012](#)).
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57 Food itself contains many nanostructured materials, i.e. proteins, complex carbohydrates and
58 fats, with sizes extending down to the nanoscale (e.g., casein, alginic acids, etc.). The best
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4 example of a food nano-fabricated by nature itself is the milk in our fridges. Milk proteins (i.e.,
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6 casein and the globular proteins β -lactoglobulin and α -lactalbumin) are synthesized in the cells of
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8 the cow's udder and transported out into the plasma or aqueous phase (Heid et al., 2005). Casein
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10 is secreted as a micelle (300–400 nm in size) assembled from different casein subunits held
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12 together by colloidal calcium phosphate. Triacylglycerides are gathered together as small
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14 droplets that fuse as the growing lipid droplet (100 nm–10 μ m) moves toward the apical plasma
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16 membrane. Lipid droplets are released from inside the cell surrounded by the cellular membrane
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18 and become the fat globules in milk. In turn, the milk fat globule membrane is a complex lipid
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20 bilayer, 4–25 nm thick, containing several types of bioactive molecules within its structure (Heid
21
22 et al., 2005). The dairy industry utilizes three basic *micro*- and *nano*- sized structures (casein
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24 micelles, fat globules, whey proteins) to build all sorts of emulsions (butter), foams (ice cream
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26 and whipped cream), complex liquids (milk), plastic solids (cheese), and gel networks (yogurt)
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28 (Aguilera et al., 1999). In fact, dairy technology is not just a microtechnology, but also a
29
30 nanotechnology, and it has existed for a long time. Furthermore, casein micelles may be useful as
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32 nanovehicles for entrapment, protection and delivery of sensitive hydrophobic nutraceuticals
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34 within other food products (Semo et al., 2007). Other times, nature builds hierarchical structures
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36 from the macromolecular to the tissue level. Devine and Dikeman (2014); and Sheeparamatti, et
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38 al., (2007) described in details these aspects in “Encyclopedia of meat sciences” (Devine and
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40 Dikeman 2014) and “Nanotechnology: Inspiration from Nature” (Sheeparamatti et al., 2007).
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50 This is important to note since the distinction between natural nanostructures and deliberately
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52 manufactured nanomaterials produced to a particular specification is not always clear.
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54 Manufactured nanomaterials entering the body through ingestion (for e.g. ENPs used as
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56 pigment for food colouring (such as TiO_2 used to provide characteristic optical properties such
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4 *as increased brightness*) in candies, sweets, chewing gums, etc.; or for e.g. migration of ENPs
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6 from active packaing into foodstuff) are subject to digestive processes in the gastrointestinal tract
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8 (GIT). The GIT and its mucosal layer should play the role of a selective barrier to systemic
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10 exposure of materials, including particulate matter, in which case the ENPs may remain in the
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12 gut lumen, perhaps with a potential for interaction with GIT surfaces or with inhabitants of the
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14 lumen (e.g., microbiota), but essentially being fully eliminated from the body via the faeces. The
15
16 behavior of ENPs entering the body through ingestion are described by [Martirosyan et al.,](#)
17
18 [\(2012\)](#). Nevertheless, up to date, the ENPs have not been comprehensively assessed in regard to
19
20 the potential effects on human health. Below it will be discussed the existing information on
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22 hazard identification of mostly applied metal-based nanoparticles (ENPs) on the GIT based on
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24 both *in vitro* cell-based assays and *in vivo* animal experimentation.
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32 Legislation addressing health and safety aspects of nanomaterials in consumator products and
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34 ensuring their use is being continously updated in the European Union and globally. Thus, this
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36 leads to a growing need for tools to implement this developing legislation. In 2018 was launched
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38 on the market a new standard for evaluation of ENP' cytotoxicity "ISO 19007, Nanotechnologies
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40 – *in vitro* MTS assay for measuring the cytotoxic effect of nanoparticles" ([ISO 19007 - 2018](#)).
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45 ***ENPs and their toxicity profiles: cytotoxicity and cellular malfunction***

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49 ENPs may produce toxicity in cells through a variety of different mechanisms, depending on
50
51 their composition and structure ([Frohlich et al., 2016](#)). One of the most important factors
52
53 contributing to the toxicity of ENPs is their ability to generate reactive oxygen species (ROS),
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55 such as singlet oxygen, superoxide, hydrogen peroxide and hydroxyl radicals ([Wu et al., 2014](#)).
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57 These ROS may then cause damage to cell membranes, organelles, and the nucleus by
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4 interacting with lipids, proteins, or nucleic acids (Wu et al., 2014; Gaillet et al., 2015; Sarma et
5 al., 2014). As a result, many biochemical functions required to maintain cell viability, such as
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7 ATP production, DNA replication, and gene expression, may be adversely affected (Sarma et al.,
8
9 2014). Below will be discussed the current studies that have reported the ability of ENPs (i) to
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11 increase the generation of ROS in cells and to produce cytotoxicity, including silver
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13 nanoparticles, silicon dioxide nanoparticles, titanium dioxide nanoparticles, zinc oxide
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15 nanoparticles, and iron oxide nanoparticles, and (ii) to generate ions and to produce toxicity
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17 (such as Ag⁺ from silver nanoparticles or Zn²⁺ from zinc oxide nanoparticles) that interact with
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19 the normal functioning cellular components (such as proteins, nucleic acids, or lipids) required to
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21 maintain biochemical processes. These mechanisms of action are most likely to be important for
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23 ENPs (inorganic nanoparticles) that are absorbed by the intestinal cells, since most organic
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25 nanoparticles are digested before being absorbed.
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33 ***Silver nanoparticles:*** Studies suggest that nanosilver can kill 650 disease-causing pathogens in
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35 food, whereas most traditional antimicrobials kill only 5–6 such pathogens (Bumbudsanpharoke
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37 et al., 2015). At present there are controversial information about the potential toxicity of silver
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39 nanoparticles ingested with foods (Gaillet et al., 2015; Ahamed et al., 2010), some studies
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41 reporting no toxicity (Hendrickson et al., 2016; Echeleyen et al., 2013; Kim et al., 2008;
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43 Fondevila et al., 2009) and others reporting appreciable toxicity (Liao et al. 2019; Cho et al.
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45 2018; Dubey et al. 2015; Chen et al., 2016; Georgantzopoulou et al., 2016; Perde-Schrepler et
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47 al., 2019; Ahamed et al., 2010; Trickler et al., 2010; Sharma et al., 2010; Sharma et al., 2009;
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49 Frohlich et al., 2016; Williams et al., 2015; Lichtenstein et al., 2015; Kawata et al., 2009;
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51 Martirosyan et al., 2014; Sharma et al., 2014; Kim et al., 2012; Cha et al., 2008; Kim et al.,
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53 2009; Shahare et al., 2013; Jeong et al., 2010; Park et al., 2010; Garcia et al., 2010). The GIT
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4 may be particularly susceptible to silver nanoparticle-induced toxicity since it contains the first
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6 tissues exposed to dietary nanoparticles after ingestion. Nevertheless, the adverse effects of silver
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8 nanoparticles on the GIT remain inconclusive. Therefore, there are very controversial data in this
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10 relation and there is a need of more thorough investigation with consideration of environmental
11
12 conditions, e.g., the presence of complex food matrix, time, temperature, etc. While there is a
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14 growing number of *in vitro* studies showing that silver nanoparticles are cytotoxic to a variety of
15
16 mammalian cell types, *in vivo* studies that have investigated the systemic effects of silver
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18 nanoparticles upon exposure by oral route are more ambiguous. Taking into account the small
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20 number of *in vivo* toxicological studies for silver nanoparticles, a limited generalized conclusion
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22 on the effects of silver nanoparticles exposure via food-relevant routes could be done. For
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24 example, it is still unclear:
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31 ✓ to what extent nanoparticles pass through the intestinal lining intact or as dissolved Ag^+ due
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33 to the highly acidic environment of the stomach. Further studies are required to determine if
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35 silver nanoparticles dissolve in gastrointestinal fluids, and to assess whether there is a
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37 difference in behavior of silver when ingested in a soluble or nanoparticle form ([Loeschner et](#)
38
39 [al., 2011](#)). Indeed, a study in which rats were fed either soluble or nanoparticle forms of
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41 silver found that the organ distribution of the silver was similar in both cases ([Loeschner et](#)
42
43 [al., 2011](#); [Wen et al., 2017](#)).
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48 ✓ to what extent silver nanoparticles can pass through natural biological barriers such as the
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50 gut epithelium, blood-brain barrier, the placenta or get into the breast milk. There is also a
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52 knowledge gap concerning the relationship between nanoparticles characteristics (size,
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54 shape, charge, coating, etc.) and toxicity.
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4 In short, animal studies have shown that silver nanoparticles may accumulate in the body and
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6 have toxic effects when ingested at sufficiently high levels, but it is not clear whether these levels
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8 are close to those actually achievable through food consumption. Hence, will be important in
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10 future studies to carry out long-term chronic toxicity studies using nanoparticle levels that are
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12 more similar to those actually consumed in the human diet.
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16 ***Titanium nanoparticles:*** A recent review *in vitro* and *in vivo* animal studies concluded that
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18 TiO₂ nanoparticles not only, accumulate in the tissues of mammals and other vertebrates, but that
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20 they also have a very limited elimination rate ([Kononenko et al., 2019](#); [Aliakbari et al., 2019](#);
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22 [Dorier et al., 2015](#); [Kruger et al., 2014](#); [Gerloff et al., 2012](#); [Cho et al., 2013](#); [Shi et al., 2013](#);
23
24 [Jovanović 2015](#); [Wang et al., 2007](#); [Powell et al., 2000](#); [Wang et al., 2007](#); [Trouiller et al.,](#)
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26 [2009](#); [Valant et al., 2011](#); [Duan et al., 2010](#); [Nogueira et al., 2012](#); [Bu et al., 2010](#); [Tada-Oikawa](#)
27
28 [et al., 2016](#); [Song et al., 2013](#); [Brun et al., 2014](#); [Chalew et al., 2013](#); [Gerloff et al., 2009](#);
29
30 [Monopoli et al., 2011](#); [Lesniak et al., 2013](#); [Wang et al., 2013](#)). Nevertheless, the results are
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32 conflicting, some of them have reported little accumulation or toxicity ([Monopoli et al., 2011](#)) of
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34 ingested TiO₂ nanoparticles. In addition to this, the doses employed were high. For example, a
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36 study where TiO₂ nanoparticles (mixture of anatase and rutile at size: 21 nm) were repeatedly
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38 administered (260–1041mg/ kg) to rats did not report any significant toxicity or TiO₂
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40 accumulation in tissues or urine, but reported high concentrations of titanium dioxide in feces,
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42 suggesting that the TiO₂ nanoparticles were mostly eliminated ([Monopoli et al., 2011](#)). The
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44 observed contradictions between different animal studies on the accumulation and toxicity of
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46 TiO₂ nanoparticles may arise for a number of reasons:
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55 ✓ Firstly, there are differences in the oral dose, crystal form, particle size/shape, aggregation
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57 state, and surface characteristics of the nanoparticles used.
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4 ✓ Second, the impact of the food matrix and GIT passage on the properties of the nanoparticles
5
6 are often ignored, or taken into account differently.
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9 ✓ Third, the type of animal model and analytical methods used to determine accumulation and
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11 toxicity may vary. For example, it has been shown that the *age* of the experimental animals
12
13 used is an important factor. The same doses (up to 200 mg/kg body weight per day for 30
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15 days) of TiO₂ nanoparticles (anatase at 75 nm) were used to treat both young (3-week-old)
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17 and adult (8-week-old) rats (Lomer et al., 2004). Heart injuries, liver edema, and non-allergic
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19 mast cell activation in stomach tissue were observed in young animals, but only slight toxic
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21 effects were observed in adult animals (Lomer et al., 2004). This finding is particularly
22
23 important given that the amount of TiO₂ nanoparticles consumed by humans is estimated to be
24
25 appreciably higher for children than adults (*see* section “European and USA standard
26
27 migration tests: Titanium oxide”). TiO₂ is an approved food additive with the limit set at 1 %
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29 by weight of the food; however, neither the size nor the structure is defined (EC 1994; FDA
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31 2002; FDA 2015). It has been estimated that the average daily exposure to TiO₂ from food,
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33 medicines and toothpaste is around 5 mg/individual (i.e., about 0.07 mg/kg BW)
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35 (Athinarayanan et al., 2014), which is a much lower dose than those that showed adverse
36
37 effects in experimental animals (Lomer et al., 2004). In short, there is no data if, and what
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39 proportion of TiO₂ nanoparticles is absorbed at doses relevant to human exposure, and how
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41 different food matrices affect behaviour and absorption of TiO₂ nanoparticles.
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50 No conclusion about the risk of nano-sized TiO₂ by oral exposure is possible, until in vivo
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52 toxicokinetic data for nano sized TiO₂ are available.
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55 Nevertheless, some important questions which should not be neglected in case there is low
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57 exposure at nano-sized TiO₂ are:
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4 (i) may trigger symptoms in subjects with an underlying susceptibility,
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6 (ii) and through a constant lifetime oral exposure, reach concentrations that would trigger
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8 adverse effects?
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11 ***Silicon dioxide nanoparticles:*** Cell culture and animal feeding studies suggest that high levels
12 of SiO₂ nanoparticles may cause adverse effects, such as cytotoxicity and generation of ROS (So
13 et al., 2008). A recent study suggested that the SiO₂ nanoparticles accumulate in liver at levels
14 that could cause a health risk (van Kesteren et al., 2015; Dekkers et al., 2013). Dekkers et al.,
15 (2011) concluded that single SiO₂ nanoparticles may be more easily absorbed from the human
16 intestine (Dekkers et al., 2011; Yun et al., 2015), but that no conclusion on the oral
17 bioavailability of synthetic amorphous silica or nano-sized silica can be drawn so far.
18 Conversely, a study that employed oral administration of silicon dioxide nanoparticles to rats
19 over a 13-week period reported no accumulation or toxicity (Pati et al., 2015). Therefore, no
20 clear conclusion on the toxicity of silicon dioxide nanoparticles can be drawn based on the
21 available evidence.
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38 ***Iron oxide nanoparticles:*** Crystalline forms, shapes and different sizes may alter their toxicity
39 (Yun et al., 2015). It has been proposed that the ability of iron oxide nanoparticles to generate
40 ROS is the most likely mechanism for their potential toxicity (Wu et al., 2014). Some studies
41 where iron oxide nanoparticles were orally administered at about 3 mg/kg body weight or at
42 much higher dose 250–1000 mg/kg body weight to both male or female rats over a 13-week
43 period reported that they did not accumulate in tissues or produce toxicity (Wang et al., 2014;
44 Hilty et al., 2010).
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55 ***Zinc oxide nanoparticles:*** The antimicrobial activity of ZnO nanoparticles has been partly
56 attributed to their ability to penetrate into microbial cells and generate ROS that damage key
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4 cellular components thereby leading to cytotoxicity (Chen et al., 2019; Sirelkhatim et al., 2015;
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6 Choi et al., 2015; Vandebriel et al., 2012). This mechanism could lead to adverse health effects
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8 in humans if this type of nanoparticle were ingested in sufficient quantities and then absorbed by
9
10 the human body.
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14 Chen et al., (2019) reported that the cytotoxicity of ZnO nanoparticles, depend on both the size
15
16 and concentration, and was attributed to the release of Zn²⁺, induction of oxidative stress and
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18 inflammatory response; the death mode of HepG2 cells incubated with ZnO nanoparticles was
19
20 necrotic rather than programmed cell death. Several rodent feeding studies have demonstrated
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22 particle size - dependent effects on the intestinal uptake of ZnO nanoparticles, with a smaller
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24 particle size leading to a higher uptake (Pasupuleti et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2008; Wang et al.,
25
26 2013; Kang et al., 2013; Safar et al., 2019). A recent study demonstrated time- and dose-
27
28 dependent cytotoxicity of ZnO nanoparticles on Caco-2 cells after 24 h exposure (Scherzad et al.,
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30 2017). The authors reported that ZnO nanoparticiles exert different size-dependent cytotoxic
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32 effects with the highest toxicity to Caco-2 cells at 26 nm. These ZnO nanoparticles at 26 nm
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34 could also reduce the G1 phase, increase the S phase and the G2 phase cells to repair damaged
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36 genes, while no differences were obtained between 62 nm and 90 nm ZnO nanoparticles
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38 (Scherzad et al., 2017). The *in vivo* studies on mice have shown that the Zn concentration in
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40 liver, spleen and kidney was higher after administration of zinc in *nano*- form compared to
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42 similar amounts of ZnO *micro*- particles. Oral nanoparticles administration resulted in transient
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44 histopathology of the liver that was not seen after administration of *micro*- sized ZnO particles
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46 (Yammamoto 2001). Oral administration of 100 nm ZnO nanoparticles (2.5 g/kg of body weight)
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48 resulted in their accumulation in the liver, spleen, lung, and kidney. In contrast to intraperitoneal
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50 administration, ZnO nanopartilces did not accumulate in the heart (Esmaellou et al., 2013).
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4 More information on the existing literature on mammalian toxicity of ZnO nanoparticles, both *in*
5
6 *vitro* and *in vivo*, is summarized by [Bacchetta et al., \(2014\)](#).
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9 [Wang et al., \(2014\)](#) showed in their work that ZnO nanoparticles were not toxic when used in
10 isolation, but that they become toxic when mixed with ascorbic acid. This suggests that it is
11 important to measure the impact of specific food components on the toxicity of this type of
12 nanoparticle. ZnO nanoparticles may be spherical or non-spherical solid particles that are usually
13 highly aggregated when dispersed in aqueous solutions ([Wang et al., 2014](#); [Vandebriel et al.,](#)
14 [2012](#)). These aggregates are typically many times larger than the individual nanoparticles, with
15 their size and structure depending on solution conditions, which is likely to have a major effect
16 on their GIT fate and toxicity. Feeding studies with frogs have shown that zinc oxide
17 nanoparticles exhibit greater toxicity than a dissolved form of zinc, which was attributed to their
18 greater capacity to induce oxidative damage in cells ([Orfi et al., 2016](#)). This study highlights the
19 importance of establishing the physical form of zinc when ZnO nanoparticles are ingested.
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35 ***General comments***

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38 The data of science in this area emphasize that there is currently a lack of detailed understanding
39 about the gastrointestinal fate and toxicity of different kinds of ENPs, and that there are often
40 inconsistencies between different studies. There are a number of factors that may contribute to
41 this uncertainty. The types and levels of nanoparticles used in different studies vary
42 considerably, and the levels used in cell culture and animal studies are often much higher than
43 those that would ever be consumed by humans. In addition, simple cell culture models (such as
44 Caco 2 cells) cannot mimic the complexity of animal and human GITs. It should also be noted
45 that the levels of ENPs reported to accumulate in tissues are often misleading, since the
46 analytical techniques used only measure the concentration of specific elements present (such as
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4 Ag, Zn, Fe, Ti, or Si) rather than the physical form (e.g., dissolved, nanoparticle, or
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7 microparticle).

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9 Finally, food matrix effects are often ignored, and may have a pronounced impact on the
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11 behavior of nanoparticles in the GIT ([ISO 19007:2018](#); [Frohlich et al., 2016](#)). It is therefore clear
12
13 that further systematic research using well-defined nanoparticles and test methods are urgently
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16 needed.

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18 Recently, [Zhang et al., \(2019\)](#) proposed for the first time a standardized food model (SFM) for
19
20 evaluating the toxicity and fate of ingested ENPs ([Zhang et al., 2019](#)). The authors showed that
21
22 the potential toxicity of the ENPs, such as TiO₂ nanoparticles, was reduced in the presence of the
23
24 SFM, which highlighted the importance of food matrix effects. This information should be useful
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26 when designing experiments to test food matrix effects on the gastrointestinal fate and toxicity of
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28 ENPs. In particular, the availability of a standardized food model will facilitate the comparison
29
30 of results obtained on food matrix effects from different laboratories.

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33 In conclusion, the lack of standardized or validated methods established for nanotoxicity
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35 testing has led to the publication of confusing and often inconsistent data, and is hindering the
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37 development of nanoparticles risk assessment strategies. All these aspects have emerged in the
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39 EFSA opinion “ The Potential Risks Arising from Nanoscience and Nanotechnologies and Food
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41 and Feed Safety” published in 2009 and are still a current issue. It is therefore clear that further
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43 systematic research using well-defined nanoparticles and test methods are urgently needed. In
44
45 2011 EFSA has published a Guide specifically related to nanoscience and nanotechnologies in
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47 food to evaluate the risk of possible impact of the nanoparticles on human health ([EFSA 2011](#)).
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49 More than that in April 2018 was launched a new normative for nanocytotoxicity ISO
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4 19007:2018 (E) “Nanotechnologies -- In vitro MTS assay for measuring the cytotoxic effect of nanoparticles”
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6 (ISO 19007:2018).
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13 ***Moving beyond concept to current industrial applications***
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16 New consumer products containing ENPs have been launched to the market and are beginning to
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18 impact on the food associated to industries.
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21 In 2008 the global “*Nano-Enabled Food and Beverage Packaging Market*” was 4.13 billion US
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23 dollars (iRAP 2009; Ducan 2011; FAO/WHO 2010), in 2017 was valued at 30.60 billion US
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25 dollars, and is estimated to reach USD 89.0 billion by 2026 growing at a CARR of 12.7 % during
26
27 the forecast period, according to a new study published by Polaris Market Research (Polaris
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29 Market Research 2018¹⁷). Thus, numerous companies are already engaged in production of
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31 packaging materials based on nanotechnology that are extending the shelf life of food and drinks,
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33 and also improving the food safety. Mishra (2019); FoE (2008); Hannon et al., (2015); Reig et al.
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35 (2014); Han et al., (2011); Chaudhry et al., (2008) listed a number of examples of commercially
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37 available food packaging products containing ENPs.
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43 They include:

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- Debbie Meyer[®] Green Bags (Debbie Meyer[®] Innovation, USA) containing nano-clay to preserve the freshness and prolong the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables.
 - Nano-silver Baby Milk Bottle (Baby Dream Co. Ltd[®], Korea) containing nanosilver.

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¹⁷ The report ‘*Nano-Enabled Packaging Market Share, Size, Trends, & Industry Analysis Report, By Type (Active, Intelligent, Others); By End-User (Food and Beverages, Pharmaceutical, Personal Care, Others); By Regions: Segment Forecast, 2018 – 2026*’ provides an extensive analysis of present market dynamics and predicted future trends.

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- NanoSeal™ - Barrier Coating and NanoSeal™ - Baircade XT™ Barrier Coating (from NanoPack Inc.®, USA): described as a water based coating comprised of a masterbatch and a liquid dispersion of nano-clay platelets. The coating is applied to traditional packaging films (such as polyester, polypropylene, nylon and polylactic acid) to enhance gas barrier properties, and is stated to be approved for indirect food contact (i.e. used with dry and moderately dry food applications).
 - Silver-nano Noble one-touch mug cup (Baby Dream Co. Ltd®, South Korea).
 - Debbie Meyer® Bread Bags™ (Debbie Meyer® Innovation, USA) containing nano-clay for bread storage.
 - PET bottles containing nano-titanium nitride (Colormatrix®, USA) to confer barrier properties.
 - Plastic beer bottles containing nano-clay (Miller Brewing Co®, USA and Hite Brewery Co.®, South Korea) to confer barrier properties.
 - Zeomic® silver zeolites (Zeomic Co Ltd®, Japan) packaging film.
 - Fresh food containers (Oso Fresh®, USA) containing nanosilver (size particles 40-30 nm).
 - Nano-silver food containers (A-DO Global®, South Korea).
 - Nano-silver NS-315 water bottle (A-DO Global®, South Korea).
 - Nano-silver salad bowl (Changmin Chemicals®, South Korea).
 - FresherLonger™ Miracle Food Storage (Sharper Image®, USA) containing nanosilver.
 - FresherLonger™ Plastic Storage Bags (Sharper Image®, USA) containing nanosilver.
 - Fresh box silver nanoparticles food storage containers (BlueMoonGoods™®, USA).
 - Smartwist food storage with nanosilver (Kinetic Go Green®, USA).

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- Clear Silver Reclosable Mylar Zip Lock Bags Aluminium Foil Packaging Plastic Valve Zipper Paunches Bulk: Food Storage, Coffee, Candy (Pabck[®], USA).
 - Aegis[®] OX (Honeywell[®], USA): polymerised nanocomposite film is an oxygen-scavenging barrier resin formulation for use in co-injection PET bottle applications, e.g. beer, fruit juice and soft drinks. The resins are a blend of active and passive nylon using O₂ scavengers and passive nano-clay particles to enhance barrier properties, retain CO₂ but keep O₂ out.
 - Nano-silver storage box (Quan Zhou Hu Zeng Nano Technology Co. Ltd[®], China).
 - Nanobox (Hopack[®], Australia), a paper food box/container containing nanosilver.
 - Agion[®] (Agion Technologies[®], USA) containing silver zeolites for controlled release of antimicrobial ions. The technology is marketed as being applicable to virtually any material or surface.
 - Nano Plastic Wrap (SongSing Nano Technology Co. Ltd[®], Taiwan) containing nanozinc oxide as a light catalyst to sterilise in indoor lighting.
 - Imperm[®] (Nanocor Inc[®]) used in nano-clay containing multi-layer polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and sheets for food and beverage packaging. It works by minimising the loss of CO₂ from drinks and penetration of O₂ into bottles, thus keeping the beverage fresher and extending the shelf life by up to 6 months.
 - Nanolok[™] (InMat[®] Inc, USA) is a water based environmentally friendly nano-clay based-composite coating with high oxygen barrier intended for transparent packaging applications.

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- Duretham[®] LDPU 601 (Bayer AG[®], Germany): a transparent plastic film with nylon enriched with silicate particles. Its primary purpose is to prevent packaging contents from drying out and protects them from moisture and CO₂.
 - Plantic[™] biodegradable packaging (Plantic Technologies Ltd[®], Australia) is a biodegradable and completely compostable bioplastics packaging, prepared from organic corn starch using nanotechnology (www.plantic.com.au, Neethirajan and Jayas 2011). These biopolymer-based nanocomposites are supplied to 80 % of the Australian chocolate tray market.

26 **Summary and conclusions**

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Redesigning traditional packaging into an active and intelligent one by using ENPs has generated a great deal of interest in recent years. Nevertheless, the risks and benefits of ENPs in food and beverage packaging receive conflicting international attention across expert stakeholder groups as well as in news media coverage and published scientific research. Against the generally predicted growth of nano food contact applications the number of the currently and legally authorized nanocomposites materials is rather small. This is linked to the fact that up to date there is insufficient toxicological data/or conflicting data regarding the dose associated with potential health effect and safety assessments are still ongoing.

49 ***Remaining knowledge gaps***

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A few examples below highlight the range of needs that still exist:

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- ✓ Methods to monitor release of ENPs from products should further developed, prioritized and linked with consumer exposure assessments. An evaluation of the current literature on the

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4 migration of ENPs from FCMs showed that despite the increasing number of experimental
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6 studies, still many open questions remain:
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9 (i) whether ENPs can migrate from FCMs at all; e.g. in the EU Regulation No 10/2011,
10 article 11, it is stipulated that the Specific Migration Limits (SML) - express in mg of
11 substance per kg of food (mg/kg) for ZnO and TiO₂ are not applicable (Art. 11, Annex
12 I, Table 1, Column 8), but for Zn metal the specific migration limit is **25 mg/kg** to
13 food or food simulant. In 2016, the European Commission (EC) published the
14 Regulation (EU) No 2016/1416 amending and correcting the Regulation (EU) No
15 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food ('The
16 Plastics Regulation'). It was set a new SML for zinc (**5 mg/kg** food or food simulant),
17 aluminum (**1 mg/kg** food or food simulant), and for silver (**0.05 mg/kg** food or food
18 simulant). Furthermore, it was stipulated that the provisions on the specific migration
19 limits for zinc and the assignments of food simulants fresh and peeled fruits and
20 vegetables will apply "on 14 September 2018".
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38 (ii) potential release mechanism of ENPs;
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40 (iii) detection and characterizing ENPs in migration studies and the suitability of the most
41 frequently used analytical techniques are still a challenge. Due to different limitations
42 (e.g. regarding size and concentration range) in every single applied techniques, a
43 combination of analytical techniques should preferable be used to improve the
44 detection of ENPs. A combination of ICP-MS, AAS, sp-ICP-MS (*due to their high*
45 *selectivity, sensitivity, and accuracy allow the detection of very low particle*
46 *concentrations in food simulants, e.g. 0.1-10 ppm), and TEM-EDX (give information*
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4 *on particle shape and elemental composition, and can detect smaller ENPs than sp-*
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6 *ICP-MS)* for studying the migration of ENPs is suggested.

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9 (iv) consideration regarding the risk for the consumer associated with migration ENPs
10 form FCMs were discussed. This is the most complex question because data are
11 lacking in relation to all aspect of risk assessment including the fate of migrated ENPs
12 in food and gastrointestinal tract exposure to ENPs. Interaction of ENPs with food
13 should be further studied, and ENPs characterized in different food matrices. Possible
14 changes of the food matrix by interaction with (migrated) ENPs should be considered.
15 More detailed studies on the influence of physico-chemical characteristics of ENPs in
16 the gastrointestinal tract are needed. The use of in vitro digestion models for predicting
17 the fate of ENPs in the gastrointestinal tract is recommended.

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24 (v) a standardized food model (SFM) for evaluating the toxicity and fate of ingested
25 ENPs was discussed ([Zhang et al., 2019](#) proposed for the first time a standardized food
26 model for evaluating the toxicity and fate of ingested ENPs). This information should
27 be useful when designing experiments to test food matrix effects on the
28 gastrointestinal fate and toxicity of inorganic nanoparticles. In particular, the
29 availability of a standardized food model will facilitate the comparison of results
30 obtained on food matrix effects from different laboratories.

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48 ✓ Data sets for the validation of exposure models and *in silico* approaches for the prediction of
49 toxicity and fate using standardized methods should be generated by close cooperation of
50 experimentalist with modelers.

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58 ✓ *In vitro* tests that better predict chronic effects on human health should be developed (e.g. [ISO](#)
59 [19007: 2018](#)).

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4 ✓ More robust data sets that contain curated information on migration and toxicity (e.g . there
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6 are various issues that complicate the interpretation of food packaging migration studies
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8 conducted with nanomaterials. These include uncertainty in the ability of the analytical
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10 techniques utilized to detect nanoparticles *per se* in food simulants, uncertainty in the
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12 influence of sample preparation methods, and the often limited level of description provided
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14 of how these methods were carried out) of ENPs in food-contact materials should be
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16 provided.
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21 In the light of the mentioned, although nanotechnology may hold some hidden threats, in essence
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23 it hold out a great deal of promise for the food security and food sustainability.
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Table 1

Overview of European and USA (FDA) standard migration tests for food packaging.

Jurisdiction	Legislation (Reference)	Comments
Europe	<p>European Standard BS EN 1186-1:2002; EN 1935/2004; EN 13130:2004; EN No 10:2011. Food simulants specified in Council Directive 85/572/EEC 1982; Council Directive 82/711/EEC 1982; Commission Directives 93/8/EEC 1993; 97/48/EEC 1997; 2002/72/EC 2002</p>	<p><i>European standardized testing conditions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four types of food simulants (A-D)^a; choice depends on type of food (aqueous, acidic, alcoholic, or fatty foods). A list of food types and corresponding simulants which should be used is provided. - Times & temperature selected to correspond to worst foreseeable conditions of contact & to any labelling information on maximum temperature for use. - Where no labelling given, depending on food type(s), simulant(s) A and/or B and/or C shall be used for 4 h at 100 °C or for 4 h at reflux temperature and/or simulant D shall be used only for 2 h at 175 °C. - Where materials are labelled for use at room temperature or below, test shall be carried out at 40°C for 10 days.
USA	FDA 2007	<i>USA standardized testing conditions:</i>

- Comparable to European test strategy, except recommended testing conditions slightly differ. ^b Recommended migration protocol depends on the thermal treatment and extended storage conditions of the food packaging, as well as the type of polymer used.

^a Food Simulant A: distilled water or water of equivalent quality (used for only aqueous food, pH > 4.5);

^a Food Simulant B: 3 % w/v acetic acid (used for only acidic foods, pH ≤ 4.5);

^a Food Simulant C: 10 % v/v ethanol, shall be adjusted to actual alcoholic strength of food if >10 % (v/v) (used for alcoholic foods);

^a Food Simulant D: rectified olive oil or other fatty food simulant (used for fatty foods). According to EN13130-1:2004 “When testing with fat simulants, simulant D, at 5 °C the simulant can partially or totally solidified. Hence, to avoid this issue, the test should be carry out at 10 °C. According to this normative, olive oil and sunflower oil at 10 °C does not presence this issue of solidification. Nevertheless, at 10 °C is a” more severe” test, but if the migration does not exceed the specified limit when tested at 10 °C then it would also not have exceed the limit at 5 °C according to EN13130-1:2004 ([EN 13130-1: 2004](#)). Alternatives to Food Simulant D include 95 % ethanol in aqueous solution or isooctane.

^b The 3 % w/v acetic acid simulant is less frequently recommended for use by the FDA. The standard simulant is typically 10 % v/v ethanol (or 50 % v/v ethanol for foods with higher alcoholic content), or food oil (e.g. corn oil).

Not all recommended standardized testing conditions are listed here, but examples include:

Contact time in days or hours at contact temperature in (°C)	Intended food contact conditions
10 days at 20 °C	Any food contact at frozen and refrigerated conditions.
10 days at 40 °C	Any long term storage at room temperature or below, including heating up to 70 °C for up to 2 hours or heating up to 100 °C for up to 15 minutes.
2 hours at 70 °C	Any contact conditions that include heating up to 70 °C for up to 2 hours or up to 100 °C for up to 15 minutes which are not followed by long term room or refrigerated temperature storage.
1 hour at 100 °C	High temperature application for all food simulants at temperature up to 100 °C.
*2 hours at 100 °C or at reflux or alternatively 1 hours at 121 °C	High temperature applications up to 121 °C. (It represents the worst case conditions for all food simulants in contact with polyolefins).
4 hours at 100 °C or at reflux	Any food contact conditions with food

simulants A, B, or C, at temperature exceeding 40 °C. (It represents worst case conditions for food simulants A, B and C in contact with non-polyolefins).

2 hours at 175 °C

High temperature applications with fatty foods exceeding the conditions of *

(It represents the worst case conditions for fatty food simulants in contact with non-polyolefins).

Table 2

The updated data on specific migration studies of ENPs from FCMs.

Reference	ENPs	Polymer	Test material (FCMs)	Migration simulant	Test conditions	Analytical method (s)	Concentration of ENPs in FCM	Migration result (given as total element determinatination if not otherwise stated)
Bumbudsanpharoke et al., (2019)	Nano-Zinc oxide	LDPE	Films	W 4% AA (v/v) 50% E (v/v) n-heptane	30 min at 70 °C	ICP-OES	1wt% and 5 wt.%	W: 0.009-0.029 mg/L 4%AA:0.017-3.416 mg/L 50%E: 0.006-0.013 mg/L n-heptane: n.d.
Chen et al., (2019)	Nano-Titanium oxide	PET	Fims	4% AA (w/v)	10 d at 40 °C 8 h at 80 °C	ICP-OES	583.8 mg/kg	4%AA: 1.88 mg/kg 4% AA: 3.32 mg/kg
Yan et al., (2019)	Graphene	LDPE	Films (thickness: 0.043 mm)	10% E (v/v) 50% E (v/v) 95% E (v/v)	8 d at 70 °C	UV-vis	1.5 wt%	10% E: 1.02 mg/kg 50% E: 1.10 mg/kg 95% E: 1.29 mg/kg

Choi et al., (2018)	Silver nanoparticle	LDPE	Comercial baby products (Breastmilk storage bags and baby bottles)	4%AA (w/v)	10 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS	24.80-51.17 mg/kg	4%AA: 1.05-2.25 ng/L
Bott et al., (2018)	Nano-clay (Laponite)	LDPE- EVA	Films	Surfactant solution as alternative food simulant	10 d at 60 °C	AF4- MALLS	2 wt%, 4wt% and 6 wt%	Nano-clay: n.d.
Ntim et al., (2018)	Nano-Silver	LDPE	Comercial cuting board (purchased through the US- FDA office in China)	W	Abrasion using Taber Industries Model 5750, US 1000 cycles 5000 cycles	ICP-MS	7.20 µg/g	0.24 µg/g

					9000 cycles			0.58 µg/g 0.60 µg/g
Li et al., (2017)	Nano-Titanium oxide	PLA	Films	3% AA (w/v)	40 d at 25 °C	ICP-AS	1 wt% 5 wt%	3% AA: 2.19 ug/kg 3% AA: 3.12 ug/kg
	Nano-Titanium oxide/Nano-Silver	PLA	Films	3% AA (w/v)	40 d at 25 °C	ICP-AS	1wt%/0.5wt% 5%wt/0.5wt%	3% AA: 2.36 ug /kg 3% AA: 3.5 ug/kg
	Nano-Titanium oxide Nano-	PLA	Films	50% E (v/v)	40 d at 25 °C	ICP-AS	1 wt% 5 wt%	50 % E: 0.593 ug/kg 50 % E: 0.80 ug/kg

	Titanium oxide/Nano- Silver	PLA	Films	50% E (v/v)	40 d at 25 °C	ICP-AS	1 wt%/0.5 wt% 5 wt%/0.5 wt%	50 % E: 0.72 ug/kg 50 % E: 0.99 ug/kg
Huang et al., (2017)	Nano- Titanium oxide	LDPE	Films (thickness: 40 ±2µm)	3%AA (w/v)	7 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS	1 wt%	3 % AA: 0.61 mg/kg
	Nano- Zinc oxide	LDPE	Films (thickness: 46± 2µm)	3%AA (w/v)	7 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS	1 wt%	14.17 mg/kg
EFSA (2016)	Nano-Zinc oxide	LDPE	Plaques (thickness: 2 mm)	3%AA (w/v) 10% E (v/v) 50% E (v/v)	10 d at 60 °C	ICP-MS and ICP- OES	2 wt%	3% AA: 2 mg/kg 10% E: 0.05 mg/kg 50% E: 0.06 mg/kg
Ramos	Nano-silver	PP	Tow plastic	3%AA (w/v)	10 d at 20-70	sp-ICP-		3% AA:

et al., (2016)		PC	containers: - a baby feeding bottle (Nano BeBe ⁺ , Baby dream Co.Ltd., Korea) -a food box (T-7003, Tifuco Co., Korea)		°C	MS	62 mg/kg 28 mg/kg	62 ng/dm ² 18887 ng/dm ²
Mackevica et al., (2016)	Nano-Silver	PE	2 brands of commercial food storage boxes and 1 brand of commercial storage bag:	W 10% E (v/v) 3%AA (w/v)	10 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS		W: n.d. (<0.04, <0.05, <0.06). 10% E: n.d. (<0.04, <0.05, < 0.06). 3% AA: 0.20, 0.27, 0.28, 0.31µg/g

-Kinetic Go
GreenTM
Premium Food
Storage
Containers®
(Kinetic, USA)
-The Original
Always Fresh
ContainersTM
®(Gourment
Trends, USA)
- PE zipper
storage bag®

22.5 µg/g
(0.2 µg/cm²)

11.9 µg/g
(1.4 µg/cm²)

<1.0

			dishes, cups.		and 30 min at 60 °C and 95 °C			1.4-46 µg/L n.d.-26 µg/L n.d.-32 µg/L
	Nano-Silver	PE HDPE	Commercial containers Commercial bags	4% AA (w/v) W 20%E (v/v) 4% AA (w/v) W 20%E (v/v)	10 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS	21-200 mg/Kg	4% AA: 1.4µg/L W: 0.5 µg/L 20% E: n.d. 4% AA: 46 µg/L W: 5.7 µg/L 20%E: 4.7 µg/L
Metak et al., (2015)	Nano-Silver	PE	Commercial containers (“Fresh Box [®] from Blue Moon Goods, USA)	Orange juice Orange juice	7-10 d at 40 °C 7-10 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS AAS	1 wt% 1 wt%	Oringe juice: 3.17&5.66 ± 0.02 µg/L Nano-silver: n.d.

	Nano-Silver	PE with surface coating to 10 µm thickness with nano-silver	Commercial cling films(from Huzheng Nano Technology Co. Ltd., China)	Orange juice W Orange juice	7-10 d at 40 °C 7-10 d at 40 °C 7-10 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS ICP-MS AAS	1 wt% 1 wt% 1 wt%	Oringe juice: 18.95 & 28.92 ± 0.01 µg/L W: 6.4 ± 0.01µg/L Oringe juice: 0.029± 0.01µg/L
Ntim et al., (2015)	Nano-Silver	PP LDPE PES	Commercial - baby bottles - cutting boards - food storage bags -food storage containers	3%AA (w/v)	4 h at 100 °C + repeated contact	ICP-MS	 0.88 µg/g 7.16 µg/g 36.0 µg/g 24.7 µg/g	Nano-silver: n.d. 6.60 µg/g 35.8 µg/g 24.1 µg/g

			(purchased through the US. FDA office in China).					
Artiaga et al., (2015)	Nano-Silver	PP LDPE	Commercial food containers	3% AA(w/v) 10% E (v/v) 95% E (v/v)	10 d at 20 °C 10 d at 40 °C 2 h at 70 °C	ICP-MS	28 µg/g	3% AA: 0.001 ng/g (20 °C), 0.01 ng/g(40 °C), 0.01ng/g (70 °C) 10% E: <0.0001 (20 °C) 95% E: < 0.1
EFSA (2014)	Nano Silica	LDPE	Films (thickness: 60 µm)	3% AA (w/v) 95% E (v/v) IO	24 h at 40 °C (IO)	AF4- MALLS	3 wt%	Silica particles not detectable at the detection limit of the analytical method used (0.3-0.6 µg/kg simultant).

Farhoodi et al., (2014)	Nanoclay (Cloisite 20 A)	PET	Bottle	3% AA(w/v)	7-90 d at 25 °C and 45 °C	ICP-OES	3 wt%	3%AA: Al: 0.18 mg/kg (25 °C) and 0.34 (45 °C), Si: 6.0 mg/kg (25 °C) and 9.5 mg/kg (45 °C)
Bott et al., (2014a)	Carbon Black	LDPE PS	Injection moulded plaques (thickness: 3 mm)	3%AA (w/v) 95% E (v/v) IO	2-10 d at 60 °C	AF4- MALLS	2.5 wt% 5 wt%	Carbon black particles not detectable.
Bott et al., (2014b)	Titanium nitride (TiN)	LDPE	Films	3%AA (w/v) 95% E (v/v) IO	10 d at 60 °C, but Iso- octane: 24 h at 40 °C	ICP-MS	0.01 wt% 0.05 wt% 0.1 wt%	3% AA: 0.24 µg/kg 95% E, IO: 0.09-0.11 µg/kg
Cushen et al., (2014)	Nano-Silver	PE	Films	Chicken breast	1-3 d at 8 °C and 22 °C	ICP-MS	0.5 wt%	0.003-0.005 mg/dm ²

	Nano-Copper	PE	Films	Chicken breast	1-3 d at 8 °C and 22 °C	ICP-MS	0.5 wt%	0.024-0.049 mg/dm ²
Jokar et al., (2014)	Nano-Silver	LDPE	Films (thickness: 0.5 mm)	W 3 % AA w/v 10 % E v/v Apple juice	30 d at 4 °C 30 d at 40 °C	AAS	0.1 wt%, 0.5 wt% and 5 wt%	0.30-1.12 mg/kg 0.37-1.12 mg/kg 0.33-0.96 mg/kg 0.34-0.76 mg/kg 0.38-1.10 mg/kg 0.49-1.43 mg/kg 0.42-1.29 mg/kg 0.56-1.08 mg/kg
Lin et al., (2014)	Nano-Titanium dioxide	PE	Films	3%AA (w/v) 50% E (v/v)	1-8 h at 25 °C 70 °C, 100 °C	ICP-MS	254.84 mg/kg	3% AA: 1.4/6.3/12.1 µg/kg

								50% E: 0.5/0.6/2.1 µg/kg
von Goetz et al., (2013)	Nano- micro- sized Silver	PP PE	Commercial plastic container	3%AA(w/v) W 10% E (v/v) OO	1-10 d at 20 °C	sp-ICP- MS	9.7-23 µg/g	3% AA: 9.5 ng/cm ² W and 10% E: 4.75 ng/cm ² OO: n.d. (LOD: 1 ng/g oil)
Cushen et al., (2013)	Nano-Silver (size particle: 10 nm and 50 nm)	Plasticiz ed PVC (50 % w/w DEHA)	Commercial plastic bags	W 3% AA 10% E	1-10 d at 20 °C	sp-ICP- MS	37 µg/g	3% AA: 0.5 ng/cm ² All other: n.d. (≤0.5 ng/cm ²)
			Film (thickness: 42-	Chicken breast	1-4 d at 5 °C and 20 °C	ICP-MS	Nominal values: 500 (0.5%) and	0.01-0.04 mg/dm ² (0.5%), 0.30-0.37

			70 µm)				50 000 (5%) =3.7 and 38.7 mg/dm2	mg/dm2 (5%), no effect of particle size or temperature (or inverse effect, no time dependency)
Echegoyen et al., (2013)	Nano-Silver	LDPE PP	Commercial bags(FresherLon ger™ Platic Storage bags®)	3%AA (v/v) 50% E (v/v)	10 d at 40 °C (repeated contact 2 h at 70 °C)	ICP-MS	2x10 ⁴ ng/cm ²)	3 % AA: 3.74 ng/cm ² / 3.1x10 ⁻³ ng/cm ² 50% E: 1.66 ng/cm ² / <LOQ
			Commercial container(Kineti c Go Green Basic Nanosilver Food Storage	3%AA (v/v) 50% E (v/v)	10 d at 40 °C (repeated contact 2 h at 70 °C)	ICP-MS	39x10 ⁴ ng/cm ²	3 % AA: 31.46 ng/cm ² /50.3 x10 ⁻³ ng/cm ² 50 % E: 9.48 ng/cm ² / <LOQ

			Container [®])					
Huang et al., (2011)	Nano-Silver	PE	Commercial bags (thickness: 0.07 mm)	W 4% AA (w/v) 95% E (v/v) hexane	3-15 d at r.t.; 40 °C and 50 °C	AAS	100 µg (Ag)/g plastic materials	All simulants similar results, 40 °C, 50 °C: ~3-4 µg/dm ⁻² of bag 25 °C: ~1 µg/dm ⁻² of bag
Schmidt et al., (2011)	Nano sized- Laurate - modified Al-Mg layered double hydroxide	PLA	Films	95% E (v/v)	10 d at 40 °C	ICP-MS	5 wt%	Ethanolysis of polymer
Song et al., (2011)	Nano-Silver (size particle:7	PE	Commercial food contact film	3% AA (w/v) 95% E (v/v)	1-9 h at 20 °C, 40 °C, 70 °C	ICP-MS	234 mg/kg	3% AA: 1.7/3/5.6 % 95% E: 0.24/0.23/0.22 %

	nm)		(thickness: 0.055 mm, Anson Nnanotechnolog y Co. Ltd, Zhuhai, China)					
Emamifar et al., (2011)	Nano-Zinc oxide	LDPE	Films	Orange juice	112 d at 4 °C	AAS	0.25 wt% 1 wt%	0.68 µg/L 0.54 µg/L
Emamifar et al., (2010)	Nano-Zinc oxide	LDPE	Films	Orange juice	28 d at 4°C	AAS	0.25 wt% 1 wt%	0.11 µg/L 0.16 µg/L
Schmidt et al., (2009)	Nanoclay (Cloisite® Na ⁺ and Cloisite®	PLA	Film	95% E (v/v)	10 d at 40 °C	AF4- MALS- ICP-MS	5 wt%	Clay particles: n.d.

	30B)							
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Abbreviations:

W: WATER; OO: olive oil; AA: acetic acid; E: ethanol; IO: octane;

n.d: no detected;

PE: polyethylene; PP: polypropylene; LDPE: Low density polyethylene; PET: Polyethyleneterephthalate; PVC: polyvinyl chloride;

EVA: ethylene vinyl acetate; PC: polycarbonate; PLA: polylactic acid; PES: polyphenylene ether sulfone; PS: polystyrene.

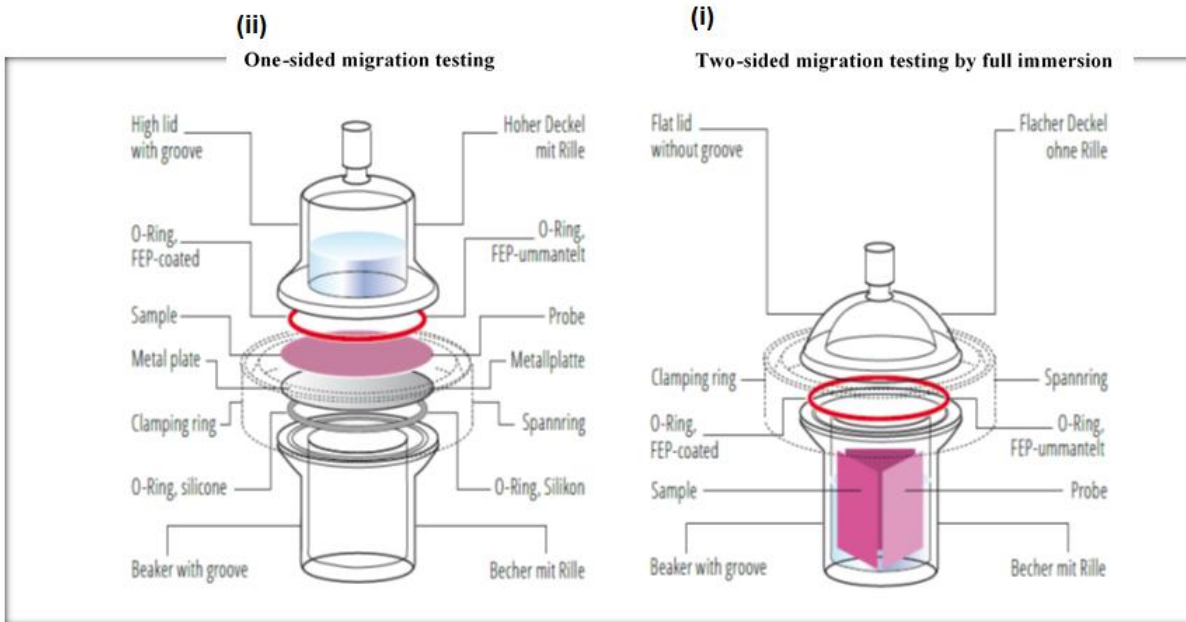


Fig. 1. Standardized cell (MigraCell[®], FABES Forschungs-GmbH[®], Germany) for overall/specific migration of (i) *mono-* and (ii) *multi-layer* materials.

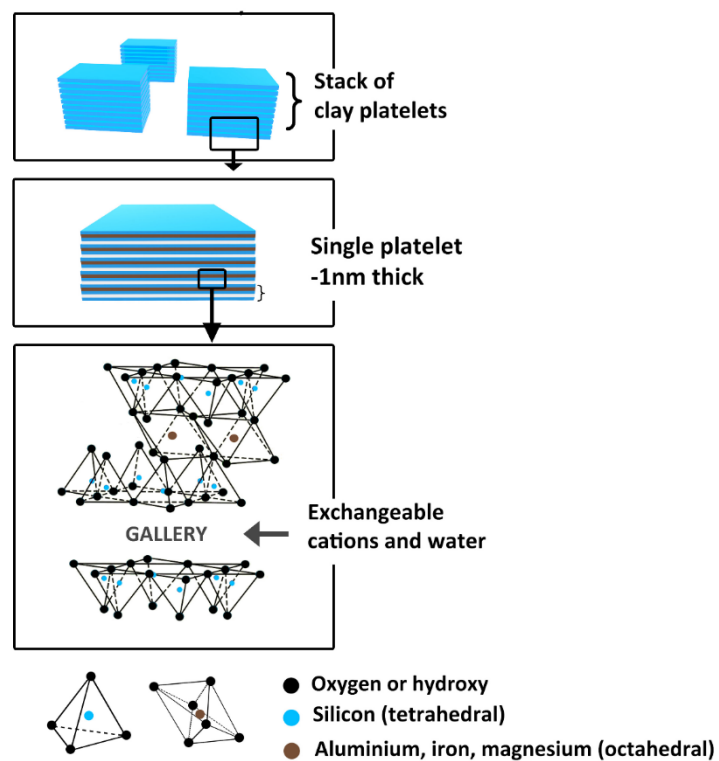


Fig. 2. Nano-clay chemical structure (Enescu et al., 2019).

Supplemental

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*Declaration of Interest Statement

Dear Editor Domingo,

I submit in your attention the manuscript entitle

“Recent advances and challenges on applications of nanotechnology in re-designing the traditional food packaging as an active and intelligent one. A comprehensive review”

author: Daniela Enescu, to be published in “Food and Chemical Toxicology”.

I mention that the above manuscript has not been published elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Ph. D. Daniela Enescu

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International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL), Department Life Sciences, Research Unit: Nano for Food/Food Processing, Braga, Portugal

Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

D Enescu
24 May 2019