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**Paper Title** **Is Food Packaging Safe?**

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**ABSTRACT**

There is growing public interest in the safety of what they eat. This extends to the safety of food packaging materials. Information and miss-information spreads rapidly through modern communications media sometimes causing panic. Examples of scare stories about plastic food packaging that have spread through hoax e-mails on the internet are discussed.

The fact is that the packaging industry and food safety authorities take great care to ensure that food contact materials are thoroughly researched and are quite safe for their intended application. Packaging materials to be used in contact with food have to meet stringent requirements of internationally recognized authorities such as the American FDA or the EFSA in Europe. Where credible concerns arise, the industry and authorities react swiftly to address these. Recent issues such as ITX in milk cartons, semi-carbazide in foamed cap lining compounds and the BADGE issue provide examples of how the industry and authorities responded to ensure food safety based on good science.