



1. What do Directives 84/500/EEC and 2005/31/EC (Royal Decree 891/2006) regulate?

These regulations establish the test methods and permissible limits for **lead and cadmium release** from ceramic articles intended to contact with food.

- **Directive 84/500/EEC:** Harmonised the migration limits as well as the testing and analytical methods, while establishing a cooperation procedure among all European Union Member States.
- **Directive 2005/31/EC:** Modifies certain provisions of Directive 84/500/EEC. The most significant amendment is the requirement for ceramic articles intended for food contact to be accompanied by a written **Declaration of Compliance** issued by the manufacturer, certifying that the products meet the applicable regulatory requirements.
- **Royal Decree 891/2006:** This is the Spanish legislation transposing these European Directives into national law.

Scope of Application.

These requirements apply to ceramic products that, under normal conditions of use, are intended to contact with food. Each country may also have its own legislation and applicable standards.

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2. How are the lead and cadmium release test performed?

In most European countries, testing is carried out on **four identical samples** by an accredited laboratory in accordance with Directive 84/500/EEC and Directive 2005/31/EC (Royal Decree 891/2006).

3. Permissible release limits

European legislation establishes specific migration limits according to the type of ceramic article.

Category	Description	Lead limit	Cadmium limit
Category 1	Articles which cannot be filled and articles which can be filled, the internal depth, measured from the lowest point to the horizontal plane passing through the upper rim, does not exceed 25 mm	0.8 mg/dm ²	0.07 mg/dm ²
Category 2	All other articles which can be filled	4.0 mg/L	0.3 mg/L
Category 3	Cooking ware; packaging and storage vessels having a capacity of more than three litres	1.5 mg/L	0.1 mg/L

To comply with the legislation, the lead and cadmium release values measured on all of **four identical samples** must remain below the applicable limits.

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4. Interpretation of test results

- If the measured lead (Pb) and cadmium (Cd) release values are below the regulatory limits. the ceramic articles are considered suitable for food contact in countries applying this legislation.
- If either or both values exceed the specified limits. the production batch cannot be commercialised for food contact applications.
- If the analytical results are very close to the regulatory limits. a second test is recommended to confirm the results.

Documentation

The manufacturer shall:

- Retain the laboratory test reports.
- Issue a **Declaration of Compliance** in accordance with **Regulation (EC) No. 1935/2004**.
- Ensure full traceability of production batches throughout the manufacturing process.
- Verify the legislation and applicable standards in the country where the ceramic articles are intended to be commercialised for food contact use. and obtain any certifications required under the relevant national regulations.

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