

REUSABLE PACKAGING TODAY

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Did you know...?

The "Noah" window in The Cathedral of Notre Dame in France was donated by Coopers in the 13th century.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chemical Packaging Committee
February 6-8, 2013
Sarasota, FL

2nd RIPA IBC Compliance Symposium
March 5-6, 2013
Tampa, FL

RIPA Technical Conference
TBA

Petroleum Packaging Committee
March 17-19, 2013
St. Augustine, FL

ICCR 2nd International Conference
June 5-7, 2013
Amsterdam, Netherlands

RIPA Annual Conference
October 14-19, 2013
San Diego, CA

RIPA HOSTING SECOND IBC COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP IN MARCH

Following on the success of the first IBC Compliance Workshop in September 2011, RIPA is hosting a second workshop March 5 – 6, 2013 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, FL.

Don't miss this exciting event! In 2011, over 100 RIPA members convened in St. Louis to learn about vital compliance issues and plant practices that keep your IBC lines running smoothly. [Registration is available online here.](#)

The symposium begins Tuesday evening with a reception at the hotel. The educational session will run on Wednesday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. A detailed agenda, including information about registering online, will be sent to all members soon and will be posted on the RIPA website: www.reusablepackaging.org.

The RIPA room rate is \$159. The registration fee will be \$245. [Hotel reservations can be made online here](#), or by calling (813) 874-1234. Ask for the **"2013 RIPA IBC"** room block.

See you in sunny Tampa!

RIPA COMMENTS ON DOT HAZMAT INCIDENT REPORT FORMS

In comments filed on December 26, 2012, RIPA asked U.S. DOT to include new information in the agency's hazmat incident report form (F 5800.1). The report form is filed with DOT following most incidents involving a release of hazardous materials. Presented here is an excerpt:

"As a general matter, RIPA believes incident data should be the primary initiator of PHMSA packaging inspection cases, not – as is generally the case today - random visits to companies or the result of tests conducted by LOGSA / Tobyhanna. Greater reliance on incident data would help the agency prioritize investigations and optimize the use of scarce resources and personnel."

...See "Comments" page 3

UN ADOPTS NEW PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

The UN Committee of Experts (COE) has adopted new model regulations dealing with empty packaging transport and plastic drum marking. The new UN requirements do not negatively impact reconditioners and must be adopted by the US Department of Transportation before they can take effect in this country.

Transport of packaging containing residues of dangerous goods

The French Expert proposed new regulations governing classification and documentation of packagings containing residues of dangerous goods. The proposal would classify these items as "packaging wastes" and force shippers to include the new shipping name on shipping papers. The French Expert argued his proposal was needed in Europe because adequate regulations governing the movement of empty dangerous goods packagings from point of emptying to a recycling or disposal site do not exist.

...See "Packaging" page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I am extremely excited about the events that RIPA has planned for members in the coming year. In March, we begin the year with a much anticipated IBC Workshop. The Spring Technical Conference will be held in April, and our Annual Conference takes place in San Diego in mid-October. In addition, the International Confederation of Container Reconditioners (ICCR) will host the 2nd International Conference on Industrial Packaging in Amsterdam (June 5 – 7).



Paul Rankin

Paul Rankin

Each of these events offers members the chance to improve their businesses in both traditional and non-traditional ways. The obvious benefits of association meetings include education, networking opportunities and access to up-to-the-minute information about the latest goings-on in the industrial packaging business.

The Annual Conference, which will be held in San Diego this October, is a classic example of a meeting that offers traditional opportunities to members. The meeting includes both reconditioners and manufacturers; there are several receptions where members can meet and talk in a relaxed atmosphere, and business sessions feature a range of technical and business presentations.

The IBC Workshop in Tampa, FL (March 5 & 6) is something of a non-traditional meeting for our association. By this I mean that unlike our regularly scheduled meetings, the Workshop focuses intensely and exclusively on a single issue – regulatory compliance for producers of reconditioned composite IBCs. Its target audience is all levels of staff, not just upper management, and it is designed to be inexpensive and accessible so that every company in the association can send two or more staff and know they are getting their money's worth.

Although I have written about the 2nd International Conference in previous Messages, I want to urge every member of the association to attend this event. In addition to its location in Amsterdam – one of the world's great cities – the Janus family has assured us that this will be a meeting to remember.

Make 2013 a year in which you take advantage of all the professional and social opportunities made available to you by RIPA and ICCR. Get involved in your association. I assure you, the time you invest will be repaid many times over by the friendships you make and the business opportunities that come your way.

Have a great year.



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"Also, RIPA believes that incident reports should more accurately describe the failed packaging. For example, using the current incident report form, a person reporting the failure of a steel or plastic drum today would not be asked to provide information on head or body material thickness, despite the fact that this information is a marked design-type determinant for these containers. Given that PHMSA's own data show "forklift accident" (i.e. puncture) to be a leading cause of drum failure, and also include a number of other similar failure causes (e.g. abrasion, cracking, crushing), thickness data is likely to be a key factor in any incident assessment. To this end, RIPA strongly recommends the incident report form be revised to include a line-item for material thickness, where applicable."

There is no statutory mandate or deadline driving DOT's review of the incident reporting form. Nor is there any court case or challenge setting a deadline. Thus, DOT has not specified any timetable for its review. RIPA will continue to monitor and report developments

For a copy of RIPA's comments click [HERE](#) or visit the RIPA website: www.reusablepackaging.org.

EPA DEFINES "WASTE" VS. "FUEL" FOR INDUSTRIAL BOILERS AND INCINERATORS

In a rulemaking signed December 20, 2012, EPA issued regulations that further define the status of a "non-hazardous secondary material" as either "waste" or as "fuel" when burned in industrial process boilers or industrial incinerators. A designation as "waste" triggers considerably more regulation.

Significantly, EPA once had classified "drum reclamation units" (i.e., furnaces) as industrial incinerators under the subcategory "burn-off ovens". The purpose of that classification was to issue emissions limits for hazardous air pollutants. However, RIPA convinced EPA in 2011 to drop "burn-off ovens" (including drum furnaces) from the regulations as the agency's necessary background data on these units was either in error or non-existent.

EPA recently issued some revisions to its 2011 incinerator emissions rules. RIPA is working to assure that drum furnaces and "burn off ovens" remain outside the scope of those rules.

ICS ACQUIRES DRUMTECH AND SHO-PAC

Industrial Container Services, LLC ("ICS") located in Montebello, California has acquired Drumtech, Inc. and Sho-Pac, LLC. The deal was completed in December 2012.

Drumtech, Inc. operated steel and poly drum reconditioning facility in St. Louis, MO and Sho-Pac, LLC operated intermediate bulk container ("IBC") reconditioning facility in Venice, IL. After 35 years William "Bill" Shocklee, a former Chairman of the Reusable Industrial Packaging Association and Morris Hershsen Award of Merit recipient has retired.

Jerry Butler, ICS' Chief Operating Officer stated "With the acquisition of these two facilities ICS improves its ability to service customers in the Midwest markets." In addition, he praised former Drumtech, Inc. founder Bill Shocklee and Sho-Pac President Chris Shocklee. "Bill and Chris have built truly outstanding businesses that have superb reputations in the marketplace for quality and service," said Butler. In addition, he noted "We are particularly pleased that Chris Shocklee has agreed to stay on to manage these companies."

Chris Shocklee stated "The time has come for our founder and owner Bill Shocklee to retire and we are very excited about being part of ICS. This positive change gives our company access to more resources and expertise which will benefit our customers, suppliers and employees."

With this acquisition Industrial Container Services, LLC will have 23 strategically located facilities in 17 states.

The proposal also made clear that existing provisions authorizing the relatively unimpeded transport of empty dangerous goods packagings to reconditioning and reuse facilities should be retained. However, a coalition of global reconditioning and manufacturing associations were deeply concerned that the proposal would unfavorably impact or negate entirely longstanding national laws governing empty dangerous goods transport packaging. For this reason, ICCR and several other industry groups, including ICPP and ICIBCA, opposed the French proposal to classify all empty hazmat packagings as "waste."

After much discussion a compromise was reached that creates a new shipping name for empty dangerous goods packagings that does not include the word "waste," and a new special provision that clearly authorizes the unimpeded shipment of empty hazmat packagings to reconditioning facilities. Further, the compromise limits the applicability of the provision to competent authority approval. The latter provision sends a message to national regulatory authorities that the new provisions need not be applied in countries that are satisfied with existing rules affecting the movement of empty dangerous goods containers – such as the U.S., Germany, Canada and Japan. The text of the new special provision is shown in its entirety below:

"This entry may only be used as authorized by the competent authority for packagings, large packagings or intermediate bulk containers (IBC), or parts thereof, which have contained dangerous goods other than radioactive materials and are transported for disposal, recycling or recovery of their material, other than reconditioning, repair, routine maintenance, remanufacturing or reuse, and which have been emptied to the extent that only residues of dangerous goods adhering to the packaging parts are present when they are handed over for transport."

ICCR representative Paul Rankin said, "The global industrial packaging community is gratified that the UN agreed to eliminate the concept of "waste" packaging and clearly re-state its support for existing national laws that encourage the transport of empty dangerous goods packagings to reconditioning and reuse facilities."

Marking the date of manufacture on packaging types 1H and 3H

The International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers (ICPP) asked the Committee to permit the use of alternate date marks on plastic drums that show both the month and year of manufacture. Currently, the Model Regulations authorize only the use of a standard mark and a date clock indicating the month of manufacture. The Experts accepted this proposal. Amended paragraph 6.1.3.1(e) now reads:

"Other methods that provide the minimum required information in a durable, visible and legible form are also acceptable."

Assignment of corrosive materials to PG I by GHS

Many UN Experts are deeply concerned that a new international framework for classifying materials that pose hazards to the environment and workers, called the Globally Harmonized System (GHS), may result in the reclassification of dozens and perhaps hundreds of corrosive materials (Class 8; i.e. high or low pH materials like acids, etc.) from Packaging Group II to Packing Group I for transportation purposes.

This would mean that few if any of these materials could be transported in a composite IBC, thereby raising shipping costs for global producers of these commodities.

The UN Committee of Experts and concerned Observer Groups are working to find a compromise that would enable the continued transport of corrosive materials as PG II. Meetings between GHS and UN officials are being held in January to discuss this matter.

OHMS ADMINISTRATOR EL-SIBAIE LEAVES THEN RETURNS TO AGENCY POST

In one of the more intriguing stories of the New Year, OHMS Associate Administrator Dr. Magdy El-Sibaie first resigned his position with DOT, then just days later, returned to his job.

RIPA learned in early January that Dr. El-Sibaie had officially resigned his position with OHMS and agreed to take a high-level administrative position with AMTRAK. Indeed, on 3 January 2012, AMTRAK issued a press release announcing Dr. El-Sibaie's appointment as Chief Safety Office for the railroad.

A few days later, PHMSA Administrator Cynthia Quarterman made the transition final by appointing long-time OHMS staffer Rick Kowalewski to serve as acting administrator of the hazmat agency.

Then, events took a strange turn. On January 10, Administrator Quarterman issued a new press release announcing Dr. El-Sibaie's return to his former position in OHMS. Quarterman said, "I am very pleased to announce that after some reflection and many conversations with colleagues, stakeholders and friends, throughout the DOT and PHMSA family and beyond, Dr. El-Sibaie has decided not to resign and will return to his office tomorrow. Please join me in welcoming Magdy back to his PHMSA home, and in thanking Rick Kowalewski for his willingness to pitch in and take on a new challenge."

RIPA welcomes Dr. El-Sibaie back and looks forward to working with him on packaging and related hazmat safety issues.

Membership Report

RIPA would like to welcome as a Reconditioner Member:

Quanta Containers LLC
18501 Huron Street
Taylor, MI 48180
Mr. Vincent Concessi Owner
Mr. Frank Concessi Owner
www.quantacontainers.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Steel Drum News, Trends And Issues
January 2013

HazMat News		Wine Making News
Cats at Work! Every now and then, a new approach to an old problem can result in a positive outcome. Such is the case with two Skolnik “employees” named King and Prince. About 2 years ago we completed an expansion of our warehouse. As a result of the construction activities, a dormant rodent population became active. Eager to remedy this problem, we decided to take an alternate approach. While the common practice is to use chemicals, we decided to adopt 2 feral cats to patrol the grounds. With an introduction to the Tree House Humane Society in Chicago, we explained our situation and asked for their help. Tree House was excited about the opportunity to remedy our problem while finding a home for 2 of their rescue cats. They selected King and Prince, and we went about preparing a most elaborate cage to call their home. The “condo” is 8 feet high, 4 feet square, has a variety of “steel drum” reclining zones, ramps and many other comforts that the cats had never known. Once they were reprogrammed to identify Skolnik as their home, they went to work! King and Prince have done a great job as the problem has become a non-issue. In addition, the concept was so well received by Tree House, that they have gone on to create a program called “Cats at Work” and have placed about 60 feral cats in other Chicago manufacturing facilities. News of the program has spread and we recently were interviewed by Time Out Chicago. Click here to see a copy of the interview. One might say this is a story with a “purr-fect” ending! — Howard Skolnik	Time to Reconfirm your Closure Instruction File It’s a new year and even though your Closure Instructions may not expire with the calendar year, it’s a good time to verify the status of all the Closure Instructions that you have on file. If you are purchasing a drum or another type of UN certified packaging that meets the United Nations criteria for shipping hazardous materials, proper closure is the final and most important part of regulatory compliance. In fact, the US Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 178.2(c)) requires that UN packaging manufacturers give current written instruction to the fillers about the proper closure procedure for each package. For closed head drums, this would reference the torque required when sealing the plugs, and for open head drums, it is a combination of closure torque and ring gap. While every Skolnik order includes current Closure Instructions, call us if you would like to receive an additional copy for your record keeping. Failure to have proper Closure Instructions is a violation of the CFR and can result in a penalty. Also, Closure Instructions are not generic, they are manufacturer specific. Click here for links to our Closure Instructions and Videos. — Howard Skolnik	Visit us in Sacramento at the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium 2013 Since the American Society for Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) and the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) joined forces to create the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium in 1995, it has become the largest wine and grape conference in the nation. It has established a reputation for providing outstanding, current and breaking news, as well as information and content that exhibitors and attendees find most rewarding. As one of the industry’s premier gatherings, the Unified Symposium presents a vital platform to focus on the issues shaping today, while interfacing the topics and trends shaping the future of grape growing and winemaking. By combining a trade show with a broad spectrum of sessions, the Unified Symposium provides attendees direct access to all the latest information. The Unified Symposium also provides an excellent forum for active networking between registrants and suppliers. Winemakers and grape growers not only have a chance to renew and make new friendships, but to actively discuss and debate information and ideas that directly influence their work and success. The Unified Symposium organizers have a long and distinguished history of providing vintners and growers with the information they need to remain competitive. The conference represents the collective experience, knowledge, and background of the entire industry. A diverse committee of industry and academic professionals comes together to bring you a program with timely topics and compelling speakers. This year’s symposium is being held at the Sacramento Convention Center January 30 and 31. You will find Skolnik exhibiting our stainless steel wine barrels at booth number 1413. We look forward to having you stop by and visit. — Dean Ricker

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