

REUSABLE PACKAGING TODAY

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Did you know....

You can look up the holders of registered "M" and "R" numbers at the RIPA website? Just click on "Resources" and scroll down.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RIPA Technical Conference
April 27-29, 2014
Birmingham, AL

Chemical Packaging Committee
May 5 - 7, 2014
Raleigh, NC

RIPA Annual Conference
October 14-18, 2014
New Orleans, LA

IPANA Annual Conference
October 13-17, 2014
New Orleans, LA

GET READY FOR SPRINGTIME IN THE SOUTH: BIRMINGHAM, AL

Congressman Mike Rogers to Speak

Start planning now for a springtime venture into the bucolic south. Birmingham, Alabama will be the setting for RIPA's spring Technical Conference running from Sunday evening, April 27th through late Tuesday afternoon, April 29th.

Registrations for the conference can be made online through our convenient portal: [ReqOnline](#). Receipts and confirmations are automatically generated and sent to your email address. The conference registration fee is a sure-fired bargain at \$385. The Spouse / Accompanying Person's fee is also a real bargain at \$150 and includes both evening events, both lunches, and both continental breakfasts.

Accommodations will be with the sleek and luxurious [Westin Birmingham Hotel](#) located in the heart of the city.



DOT ISSUES OPINION THAT COULD LIMIT IBC SALES

DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has issued a Letter of Interpretation that could restrict or even eliminate the sale of "repaired" IBCs in the hazardous materials trade.

The Agency's Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Joe Solomey, issued the long-awaited interpretation on February 26, 2014. It addresses three issues of concern to companies that perform "repair" operations on composite IBCs. A typical repair involves the replacement of a used or damaged inner receptacle with another of the same type. This process is commonly called "rebotling." Importantly, the Letter applies not only to RIPA member companies, but to any company that performs rebotling operations.

.....Continued page 4

NEW MEDICAL EXAM REQUIREMENT FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVERS IS ON THE WAY

Starting on May 21, 2014 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will require all interstate drivers of commercial motor vehicles with a CDL to obtain their physical examinations from a health care professional that is on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry). This rule does **not** impact intrastate drivers.

The requirement applies only to medical cards issued to drivers on or after the May 21 deadline. A medical card issued, for example, on May 20, will still be valid after the new rule takes effect. However, the next time that driver gets his card renewed (cards are valid for up to two-years), he must obtain it from a Certified Medical Examiner (CME) on the National Registry.

The only difference between the old and new medical cards is the new ones will include the medical examiner's National Registry number.

.....Continued page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- A pro-manufacturing idea from the White House

By any measure, the President is having a tough year. His signature program – Obamacare – is taking a beating from both sides of the political spectrum. He is being attacked by friends and foes alike for failure to reign-in a massive domestic and international intelligence gathering program spearheaded by the NSA. And, recently, several tough foreign policy issues in Syria and Ukraine have the President back peddling.

So, if you have not heard of President Obama's manufacturing initiative, which focuses on the creation of regional "hubs" where advanced production concepts will be developed, you are to be excused. However, this concept, which is already underway, is one the business community should rally behind.

The "hubs" are part of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) that President Obama announced in March 2012. So far, four manufacturing hubs have been launched using federal, business and university funding resources. The first, launched in 2012, is the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute (America Makes) in Youngstown, Ohio. Three more have been launched this year. The Next Generation Power Electronics National Manufacturing Institute is in Raleigh, North Carolina. It will be run by a collaboration of 18 private companies and six universities, focused on developing the next generation of energy-efficient, high-power electronic chips and devices that will be used to help make things like motors, consumer electronics and other devices that will help make the nation's power grid smaller, faster and more efficient.

The American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute in Detroit will help develop advance lightweight materials and technology for use in everything from new hulls for Navy ships to lighter and safer automobiles. It will also train manufacturing workers to use the new technologies associated with lightweight materials. The Digital Manufacturing & Design Innovation Institute is expected to be opened in a location in or near Chicago very soon.

The President is also trying to assist smaller manufacturers through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program, which focuses on technology transition that requires deep supply chain expertise. He wants to launch several Manufacturing Technology Acceleration Centers which would be industry-specific and serve as a coordination point within key supply chains.

Manufacturers should not let these initiatives go wanting for support. In fact, this is just the kind of collaboration among business, government and academia that manufacturers have been seeking for years.

So, perhaps the next time you are asked if government ever does anything right, you can point to NNMI as a program worthy of support.



Paul Rankin

Paul Rankin



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Editor, Reusable Packaging Today
51 Monroe Street, Suite 812
Rockville, MD 20850

Chairman.....Ricky Buckner
President.....Paul Rankin
Editor..... C.L. Pettit

Rooms are available at the affordable rate of \$135, plus tax. Reservations can be made by reserving rooms through the registration process at *RegOnline*. You also can call in your room reservations at 800-228-3000 (mention the RIPA room block). The room rate is available for a *limited number* of rooms both three days *before* and three days *after* the official conference dates.

In addition to the Product Group meetings, the Main Speakers Program, and the social events, a facility tour will be hosted by the folks at Buckner Barrels Sales Corporation. RIPA Chair Ricky Buckner says "Everyone here is excited to showcase our new reconditioning plant along with all the sights and amenities our beautiful city has to offer."

Another conference highlight will be a session with Congressman Mike Rogers (R) from Alabama's 3rd District (eastern Alabama). Mike was first elected in 2002 and has since been assigned to key roles on the House Committees for Agriculture, Armed Services, and Homeland Security. Mike will offer his perspective on several key issues and also invite input from RIPA on our industry's concerns with government programs and policies.

New this year: A special session will be offered at the conference focusing on **IBC operations, compliance and customer relations**. This session is a slightly abbreviated version of the highly successful, stand-alone IBC symposiums offered by RIPA in recent years.

Speakers on the Main Program will include Mr. David Smith, Strategic Insurance Partners, who will discuss business insurance issues and special opportunities for members of RIPA. RIPA's Technical Director, C.L. Pettit will offer the required 3-year refresher training for hazmat employees. He also will present results of the latest RIPA survey of industry production, operations and business practices. RIPA President Paul Rankin will present the new "*Life Cycle Assessment*" recently completed for RIPA by expert analysts at Ernst and Young. The "*Life Cycle Assessment*" is in addition to the "*Eco Packaging Calculator*" which is an amazing tool for estimating carbon footprint savings that can be realized when using reconditioned packagings. There is a great story to be told here about reusable packaging. You won't want to miss details on the rollout and media strategy that are being put into action. A special committee of very talented members has been working hard to get our story heard.

Finally, for the golfers, there will be a Sunday golf outing at the picturesque Oxmore Valley course which is part of the famous Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. The cost is \$95 and the course is close to Birmingham. Sign-up for the event when registering online. Additional information will be sent to all golfers.

A detailed schedule of the Conference Program will be sent separately very soon. For the moment, plan to be in attendance beginning Sunday evening at 6:00 pm, and finishing with the plant tour on Tuesday at approximately 3:00 pm. Transportation to Buckner Barrels and returns to the hotel and airport are provided. Arrival at the airport will be at approximately 3:30 pm.

Several national organizations representing private and commercial truckers and trucking companies are concerned that the new rule may create problems initially for drivers who live and work in parts of the county underserved by CMEs. FMCSA is aware of this potential problem, but believes that a sufficient number of CME's will be available to meet the needs of all drivers

Employers can find certified medical examiners by searching the [National Registry Web Site](#) and conduct a basic or advanced search by one or more of the following:

- City and state
- Zip code
- Name of ME

It is important to emphasize that after the May 21 deadline, drivers must use a medical examiner that is a certified ME and is listed on the National Registry.

As a simple test, RIPA visited the National Registry web site and searched Lansing, MI and Mobile AL. We found three CMEs located within 25 miles of both locations.

RIPA members interested in more information about this program can access the FMCSA's "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" site.

Briefly, the Letter states the following:

- IBCs intended to contain liquids (or solids that are loaded or discharged under pressure) must be leakproofness tested by the person performing the repair;
- The person performing the tests and inspections *after the repair* [emphasis added by DOT] must durably mark the IBC; and,
- The "owner" of the IBC (meaning the person/company performing repair) must keep records of the tests and inspections performed on the IBC after repair.

The Letter of Interpretation is one of several the Agency has written on this subject over a multi-year period. Each interpretation has been different from the others, but the overriding goal of the Agency has been to force companies that perform repair operations on composite IBCs to conduct a full leakproofness test on the inner receptacle of an IBC even though the inner receptacle has already been leakproofness tested by the original manufacturer. RIPA has maintained throughout this process that a second leakproofness test is not and should not be required.

"In an effort to force repair operations to perform a second leakproofness test on composite IBC bottles, the Letter has created a huge problem for any company involved in this business," says RIPA President Paul Rankin. It makes clear that the person (i.e. company) performing the tests and inspections must mark the container *after the repair*, explained Rankin. The problem is that the hazardous materials regulations also require the inner receptacle to be removed from the cage during the periodic inspection process. Thus, it is literally impossible to comply with the inspection requirement "after a repair" (after inserting a bottle) As such, DOT has effectively made it impossible to place a repair mark on a composite IBC.

Rankin met with a key Agency official soon after the Letter was released and explained the problems it has created. DOT now appreciates RIPA's technical and economic concerns and they have agreed to review the issues immediately.

"It is difficult to predict the outcome of the promised internal review," said Rankin. "However, I am confident that DOT now understands the economic and regulatory issues in play, and will act in a manner that properly balances real safety risks with economic reality."

RIPA COMMENTS ON OSHA PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC, ONLINE REPORTING

RIPA submitted official comments March 10, 2014 to U.S. OSHA in response to the agency's proposal to require public, online reporting of establishment-specific illness and injury data. The response from industry, generally, has been in opposition to the rule.

RIPA explains in its comments that the public posting of injury and illness data could be misconstrued or used in unforeseen ways. It also could create a disincentive for thorough reporting. For many RIPA members, illness and injury data are considered proprietary.

Under OSHA's proposal, employers with 20 or more employees would report to a "secure" website, register the establishment, and get a login ID and password. Note: Recordable cases are any incidents requiring more than "first aid". Fatalities and the hospitalization of 3 or more workers require oral notification within 8 hours.

The exact mechanics are not yet worked out as to how the reporting form would appear on the screen or be filled out. However, two things are certain about the reporting: 1) It will not include the names of injured or ill employees, and 2) The reporting will remain *summary* data only -- for instance, total cases of a skin condition, hearing loss, laceration or respiratory distress.

For a copy of RIPA's comments go to RIPA's website and see the [Latest News](#).



ISDI / RIPA STEEL DRUM TESTING GUIDANCE MANUAL 2014

RIPA and the Industrial Steel Drum Institute (ISDI) have issued a guide on steel drum testing for UN hazmat qualification. A previous version had been last issued several years ago.

Consult this Guide for tips on conducting the various design qualification tests for 1A1 (liquids), 1A2 (liquids) and 1A2 (solids). It includes many protocols for sample preparation and handling that the regulations simply do not address. Note: These guidelines are not themselves enforceable standards or regulatory requirements; merely guidance *from* the industry *to* the industry.

The new version includes many provisions and recommendations that may only recently have come into practice. The guide includes key information on testing and recordkeeping requirements. Although basic testing requirements are outlined in the U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations and several ASTM standards, testing procedures can be vague and open to some interpretation due to a large number of variables. With the new guide, ISDI and RIPA aim to bring greater consistency and harmony to the testing environment and as a result, improve packaging safety.

For a complete copy of the new manual, go [HERE](#). It is offered here in a .pdf format. A bound “hard copy” is being planned for RIPA members (1st copy at no charge).

The .pdf version is also available under the **Members Only** section of the [RIPA website](#). Click “Members Only” and then “Compliance Tools”. Contact RIPA if you need your site *User Name* and *Password*.

NCG FORMS JOINT VENTURE WITH TRI-RINSE IN IOWA FALLS, IA

The MAUSER reconditioning subsidiary National Container Group (NCG) has acquired a 51% stake in Tri-Rinse, Inc.’s location in Iowa Falls, Iowa. Tri-Rinse is a container recycling company focused on safety, stewardship and recycling of all types of Agricultural Chemical Containers. This joint venture will grow NCG’s presence in the agricultural container market. The Iowa Falls location will process rebottled composite IBCs.

President and CEO of NCG, LLC Michael Chorpash states that “We are extremely excited to be entering into a venture with a company that holds such an exemplary environmental record as Tri-Rinse. We anticipate a smooth transition of processing units at Iowa Falls.” Clinton Shocklee of Tri Rinse says “In an effort to expand our IBC recycle/rebottle service in Iowa Falls we’ve partnered with NCG/Mausser who will add return logistics capabilities to the site as well as adding the availability of new bottles and cages.”

With this step, MAUSER and NCG are moving even closer to its customers and are resolutely driving forward its worldwide sustainability strategy.

WELL, THIS IS SOMETHING

Pictured here is a pilot project being tested in San Francisco (*where else?*) which is meant to help solve problems with public urination. Now, of course, every big city has problems of this kind, especially where bars and nightclubs are concentrated. Here in DC, the weekend crowds that roam the streets at night need federal regulation.

In San Francisco, the city has largely given up on the wholly enclosed public “water closets” lining Market Street, apparently because they are too often commandeered for illicit activities and, more often, they are just left in a terrible state.

In any event, this system relies on a planter (with bamboo), a charcoal filter and water, with semi-privacy, as you can see. It is not known exactly whether these are new or reconditioned IBCs. We’re hoping reconditioned, naturally, if only because it is more in keeping with our whole mantra of *sustainability*. You can read more about this innovative application of industrial packaging at www.PPlanter.com.





Drum It Up!

March 2014

PACKAGING NEWS

Winemaking News

Looking Back at Federal Acronyms

A Bowling Legacy Continues

How to Easily Pump Wine Out of a Wine Barrel

Recently, Skolnik received good news regarding our facility's environmental compliance record. On November 21, 2013, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District released a list of Dischargers Demonstrating Exemplary Compliance for 2012. Our manufacturing facility was one of the companies included on this list, for the third year in a row. The District noted that Skolnik demonstrated exemplary performance with regard to maintaining compliance with applicable Pretreatment Standards and Other Requirements. Also noted was that as an industrial user, Skolnik was not the subject of any enforcement actions taken by the District for noncompliance during the report period. The District commends Skolnik and all the industrial users for their efforts. This is an accomplishment for the environmental program that we have in place.

—Howard Skolnik

Ever wonder if the sports gene is genetic? At Skolnik, Bob Kicmal, our Warehouse Director spends his nights and weekends fulfilling his talent as a professional bowler. In his career, Bob has logged in 13 perfect 300 games and nearly 50 299's! Now, Bob's twin sons, Mike and Robert are showing that at 18 years old, the bowling talent continues.



Mike Kicmal, a senior at Lyons Township High School, set a school record at the St. Patrick Sectional, rolling a six-game total of 1402. Mike Kicmal and his scraped-up fingers is the scoring leader for an all-senior Lyons' boys bowling team. Kicmal finished 12th at state (Illinois) in 2014 making him all-state.

Kicmal is bowling in some pain. He suffered cuts and bruises to his fingers while bowling and new holes drilled in his ball have not helped. Kicmal carries five balls with him during competition. "The ball feels good, but it happens with the way [my hand] comes out of the ball. It happens a lot," Kicmal said. "I've had bad fingers my whole life. I'm used to it. It makes me throw the ball softer sometimes." Kicmal and his twin brother Robert are year-round bowlers. Mike Kicmal owns a team-leading 223 average per game, while Robert Kicmal is second (215). And the legacy continues!

—Howard Skolnik

One of the most frequent questions that we receive from our wine customers relates to the problem of transferring wine to or from the barrel. While large wineries may have sophisticated electronic pumping and transfer systems, smaller wineries struggle with finding an easy and consistent way of emptying their [stainless steel wine barrels](#). We have recently discovered a manual pump that works beautifully with our entire series of wine drums. GoatThroat pumps work by pressurizing a drum to dispense liquids with one touch, as easily as using a faucet. A few strokes of the piston can pressurize any container from 2-gallon jugs to 55-gallon drums. One-touch flow control dispenses liquids at a controlled rate to prevent waste, conserve inventory, and produce precisely measured amounts every time. Flow can be continuous, or adjusted to dispense liquids at rates up to 4.5 gallons per minute depending on viscosity. The pumps can be quickly attached to any container from 1-gallon jugs to our [55-gallon wine barrels](#). A few strokes of the plunger pressurizes the container, and liquids can be dispensed with one touch of the tap, as easily as opening and closing a faucet. Precise flow control helps to conserve inventory by eliminating the guesswork from dispensing and measuring precise amounts of expensive chemicals. A patented drip-proof tap prevents leaks, and a unique air-pressure dispensing system allows containers to be completely drained while remaining in a safe, upright position without the need to turn a barrel on its side. Wineries can also save time and money not having to clean up spills or overflows. Unlike expensive electrical pumps, the pumps cost less, require no power, and create no potential sparking hazard. With only three moving parts, the pumps are nearly maintenance-free. Constructed of 100% non-reactive polypropylene, these pumps are exceptionally durable to assure long service and reliability in even the most demanding winery environment. For more information check out the GoatThroat web site at www.goatthroat.com.

—Dean Ricker

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- All Parts and Components



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Plant:

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Philadelphia, PA 19132 USA

PH: 215.223.1000

FX: 267.886.9408

EMAIL: richmondmachine@gmail.com

WEB: www.richmond-machine.com



News:

Effective December 3, 2012 Watson Standard acquired certain assets of Delta Coatings Corporation, a privately owned coatings company specializing in the development and manufacturing of coatings for the general industrial and packaging industries.

Acquiring Delta allows Watson to re-enter the general industrial coatings marketplace and add to its existing portfolio of coatings and adhesives. The acquired business will operate as Watson Standard Industrial Coatings.

“We are enthusiastic about this return to an industry that was a facet of our foundation and represents our continued investment in and dedication to the coatings industry,” remarked Jim Lore, President of Watson Standard.

This acquisition provides significant benefits to both companies’ customers, current and prospective. Watson Standard will expand upon Delta’s product offerings through its development capabilities and organizational synergies. Combined, Watson and Delta are able to supply additional general industrial market segments with solvent based, water based, Ultra Violet (UV), and Electron-Beam (EB) products. Watson Standard’s acquisition will also foster additional global growth opportunities.

Watson: Past . . . Present . . . Future

Founded in 1902, Watson Standard is a privately held specialty coatings and adhesives manufacturer, headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, serving the global marketplace.

Watson generates about one third of its business in international markets, which is supported by multi-lingual customer support, a global distribution network with partners in Australia, India and the U.K., toll-manufacturing in Spain and sales and distribution agents in Mexico, Central America and South America. [®]

Watson Standard is dedicated to developing the most innovative coatings, adhesives, and related products for the international general industrial, rigid and flexible packaging markets.

Delta: Strengths and Reputation

Delta Coatings Corporation, located in Melrose Park, IL., has been a vital and innovative member of the industrial coatings community since 1996. Delta is best known for its water-borne coatings for the container and drum industries (interior and exterior), OEM/general industrial and transportation industries.

Delta’s portfolio includes high solids, conventional solvent-based, HAP’s- free and solvent-free radiation curable coatings for spray, dip, roll-coat, coil, electrostatic and electro-coat applications.

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