

# REUSABLE PACKAGING TODAY

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### Did you know...

Under the Hazardous Materials Regulations, a “combustible” liquid requires more heat (140 -200o F) to reach a dangerous flashpoint than a “flammable” liquid (only up to 140o F)? Also, combustible liquids in non-bulk packages are exempt from regulation when offered by ground.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Chemical Packaging Committee  
February 12-14, 2014  
Sarasota, FL

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

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

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

## **UN UPDATE: SWEDEN DROPS EFFORT TO REFORM IBC TESTING; PROGRESS ON CORROSIVITY CRITERIA**

### IBC leakproofness testing

For the past year, the UN Transport Expert from Sweden has been lobbying her colleagues on the UN Sub-Committee of Experts to address IBC leakproofness testing provisions in the UN Orange Book (Model Regulations). At the most recent meeting of the Sub-Committee in December, the Swedish Expert backed-off this effort when it was determined that regional differences in production testing practices do not appear to present a transportation safety hazard.

The Experts considered establishing a Working Group to examine the issue in greater detail, but decided instead to simply encourage national governments to ensure testing procedures are adequate to ensure safety.

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## **IP'S ASK PHMSA FOR R & D / FEE INFORMATION**

The Interested Parties (IPs) have asked PHMSA to provide detailed information about the Agency's hazmat research and development programs. The request came in a December 13, 2013 letter from the coalition to PHMSA Administrator Cynthia Quarterman.

The IPs want to see an accounting of research and development funds spent during fiscal years 2011 - 2013 and detailed information on current and future research and development projects, budget allocations and programmatic goals. IP Co-Chair Paul Rankin said, “PHMSA has not provided us with detailed information on their R & D program activities, despite the fact that several projects are ongoing, including several dealing with packaging testing.” Rankin and other IP members want the data so they can comment on the projects and help the Agency better target scarce resources. “It is in everyone's interest to make sure these projects produce information that improves transport safety,” said Rankin.

PHMSA has advised the IPs that it will host a public forum on these issues on January 17, 2014 in Washington, DC.

.....Continued page 3

## **FMCSA PROPOSING NEW ROADSIDE INSPECTION AND CITATION POLICY**

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is proposing structural changes to its database for roadside inspections and driver citations. Basically, the agency wants to allow – in a uniform fashion – the incorporation of information on outcomes for citations adjudicated through the states. Currently, some states go further than others in amending citation records.

FMCSA believes this action will improve roadside inspection data quality. The agency also is putting states on notice that “masking” driver safety records by dismissing citations following a guilty plea or payment of a fine will not be allowed. States that do not comply could risk decertification of their CDL programs and the loss of grant money.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we all prepare to wrap-up another successful year, let's take a moment to recall a few association highlights that took place in the preceding twelve months.



*Paul Rankin*

Paul Rankin

- **IBC Workshop.** More than 110 members traveled to Tampa, FL for a day-long session on IBC regulatory compliance issues. Meeting co-chairs Peter Cutt, Brian Evoy and Spencer Walker served as our panel of experts and helped everyone understand more fully the complex regulations associated with reusing composite IBCs.
- **Spring Technical Meeting.** Members converged on the great mid-western city of Cleveland, Ohio for two days of Product Group meetings, social events and business sessions. PHMSA Director of Engineering Carole LeBlanc updated the group on regulatory issues; Rob Medlock presented a primer on OSHA compliance and everyone was treated to a tour of K.P. McNamara's wonderful IBC reconditioning plant.
- **Fall Annual Conference.** More than 175 RIPA and IPANA members gathered in La Jolla, CA for four days of meetings and social events. Our Supplier Members hosted a great evening that included exhibits and a raffle. The Conference included superb presentations on the Affordable Care Act, America's energy future, and trucking issues. RIPA members enjoyed several wonderful receptions, including an evening with Mike Bank's band, *Parkin' Lot*. We offer special thanks to our California members who sponsored that great evening.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Industrial Packaging.** Amsterdam, The Netherlands, was the site of the ICCR international conference. Reconditioners and manufacturers from all over the world came together for three days of highly productive meetings, events and tours. The host association, SERRED, outdid itself yet again. What could be better than a tour of the City's famous canals, only to disembark to the sounds of a rock 'n roll band performing on an old Cadillac – really?? And what a great week it was.
- **IPANA Executive Director John McQuaid Retires.** For over a decade, John McQuaid ably led the Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America. This fall, he decided to pull back from day-to-day administration of the group and enjoy some down time. John's leadership, humor and energy will be missed. John's successor, Sue Nauman, has shown already that she will be a wonderful association leader.
- **Regulations keep on coming.** FMCSA finalized new hours-of-service rules for truck drivers that could negatively impact some businesses. They also proposed a new rule that re-defines "tank vehicle." The rule would have required drivers transporting empty IBCs to obtain a special endorsement on their CDL. However, RIPA helped derail that effort early in the year. RIPA is working with PHMSA officials in an effort to clarify procedures affecting marking and testing of IBCs and the degree to which coatings must be removed from steel drums in the reconditioning process.
- **Consolidation slows a bit.** EarthMinded penned strategic alliance agreements with several reconditioners in the U.S. and Canada to expand its network of collection and reconditioning options. Mauser gained a presence in Canada by acquiring ARMCO Industries. ICS continued to add to its domestic presence by acquiring Drumtech and Sho-Pac.
- **Walker chairmanship finishes strongly.** For two years, RIPA has been led by Spencer Walker and a group of very active officers: Ricky Buckner (VP), Jeff Bey (Secretary) and Jerry Butler (Treasurer). Spencer took time away from his responsibilities at NCG to lead RIPA to one of its best years ever. He came to Washington, DC to help out with regulatory work, and represented RIPA admirably at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference in Amsterdam. On behalf of all RIPA members, we thank Spencer, Ricky, Jeff and Jerry for a job very well done.

As we move forward into 2014, we have a new Chairman, Ricky Buckner, who is ready to lead. And we have a wonderful membership that gives generously of its time to help RIPA provide programs and services that offer value to all.

C.L., Larry and I thank you for your support this past year, and wish everyone a joyous holiday season. See you in 2014!!!



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### IBC wall thickness

An industry group representing metal IBC producers asked the Sub-Committee to delete from the Orange Book requirements for a minimum wall thickness. The Stainless Steel Container Association (SSCA) argued that the wall thickness requirements were no longer needed in a world dominated by performance packaging standards.

When debating the issue, many Experts expressed concern that the wall thickness requirements were retained for steel IBCs as a safety precaution. They also noted that SSCA did not provide test data to support their call for relaxing the wall thickness minimums. Corrosion was cited as a key concern.

SSCA eventually withdrew their paper and agreed to gather data to support the groups' position.

### GHS corrosivity criteria

A joint committee of experts from the UN transport and worker safety sectors (TDG/GHS) met to continue discussions regarding the possible reclassification of certain corrosive materials for transport purposes. The group appears to be coalescing around a proposal from the United Kingdom that would retain existing classifications for virtually all corrosive materials presently regulated, and establish a revised classification system for corrosive materials submitted for classification in the future.

Industry remains concerned that proposed GHS corrosivity criteria would limit or in some cases eliminate entirely the use of plastic drums and IBCs for the transport of these materials by pushing most of these materials out of their current classifications in Packing Groups II and III, into PG I.

Further meetings on this issue are planned in 2014.

### Hazmat Fees

The IPs are also seeking information from PHMSA about the Agency's hazmat fee program, which distributes money to states and a few select private organizations for response preparedness and training programs.

The IPs want to know how much money is in the DOT fund, how it is being spent, and what is being done with excess funds. This information is supposed to be available from PHMSA in a yearly report, but the reports have not been issued for some time. According to Rankin, "It is very important that federal dollars are spent efficiently and in accordance with the law. Without the information we have requested, it is not possible to make either of these determinations."

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### **REMINDER: OSHA "GHS" WORKER TRAINING WAS DUE DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>!**

RIPA reminds members that worker training on U.S. OSHA's new "Globally Harmonized System" (GHS) was due December 1, 2013. The training covers OSHA's "roll out" of new hazard communication symbols (pictograms) for containers, as well as a new standard format for Safety Data Sheets (formerly *Material Safety Data Sheets*).

RIPA has developed for members an easy-to-use training module which includes a training certification form for each worker. The training requirement applies to all employees who may encounter hazardous chemicals in the conduct of their jobs.

Go to the [RIPA website](#) to get a copy of the training presentation. You will need your *User Name* and *Password*. Call or email RIPA if you do not know these items. Note that the module is also available in Spanish.



## U.S. DOT TO TEST “E-COMMUNICATION” TOOLS AS HAZMAT SHIPPING PAPERS

U.S. DOT (PHMSA) is embarking on a pilot project to test the efficacy and safety of using electronic communication tools (e.g. tablets, smart phones) in replacing paper shipping papers for hazmat shipments. The agency has solicited interest in participating from shippers/carriers, law enforcement, inspectors and emergency responders.

A look at the list of those offering to participate is interesting, and includes:

United Airlines  
Fire Department of New York  
San Diego Fire and Rescue  
Citgo  
FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)  
FRA (Federal railroad Administration)  
New Mexico State Police  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Raytheon Company  
Union Pacific  
Port of Tacoma  
Florida Division of Emergency Management  
Labelmaster  
Mercedes Benz  
Florida Highway Patrol  
Conway Freight

The pilot project will simulate inspections and emergency responses. The bulk of data, findings and recommendations will be filed by responders and inspectors. Shippers/ carriers will participate in follow-up questioning about the results.

Simulations will be conducted in four U.S. regions: the Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, and Southwest. They will be conducted in areas with a high concentration of registered hazmat shippers. However, one of the four simulations must be conducted in a rural area.

DOT is still finalizing its list of participants. A report to Congress is due by October 2014. While the study is focused on shipping papers, RIPA will be following developments closely for any impact on packagings.





Drum It Up!

December 2013



**A Holiday Question – Are you As Good as your Dog?**

Of all the items ever published in this Newsletter, I am repeatedly asked about "Are you as Good as your Dog?" I hope you will find in it, a special message for this Holiday season. – Howard Skolnik

"If you can start the day without caffeine, if you can get going without pep pills, if you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles, if you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it, if you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time, if you can overlook it when something goes wrong through no fault of yours and those you love take it out on you, if you can take criticism and blame without resentment, if you can ignore a friends limited education and never correct him, if you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend, if you can face the world without lies and deceit, if you can conquer tension without medical help, if you can relax without liquor, if you can sleep without the aid of drugs, if you can honestly say that deep in your heart you have no prejudice against creed, color, religion or politics, then my friends, you are almost as good as your dog!"

Wishing all of our NEWSLETTER readers the Happiest of Holidays!

**PACKAGING NEWS**

**WINEMAKING NEWS**

**Like a Holiday Story, Navy Veteran turns Passion into Business and Skolnik is at his side!**

Noah Glanville is the creator and owner of the Pit Barrel Cooker Company. Pit Barrel started as a niche manufacturer of barbecue smokers and seems to be on the path to national success. As a customer, and friend of Skolnik, the story of Noah and his company is one of those stories that warms our hearts as we approach this Holiday Season.

Noah served in the Navy for 6 years. His duties included serving as a Navy Corpsman. When he returned to the US, he began the difficult process of finding employment. The national average of unemployment was near its high, and Noah changed his life path direction and decided to follow his passion by starting his own company. His passion was barbeque and thus, Pit Barrel Cooker was born.

Today, Noah has a handful of employees and is manufacturing and fulfilling orders from a small warehouse near his home. Plans for expansion are underway, he is looking for additional staff, and of course, he is giving priority to other veterans that apply. In addition, Federal tax credits have also been a boost to his operational budget. Having just spoken with Noah while writing this piece, he's shared with me that it looks like Pit Barrel may be taking off in 2014 as he's been approached by several national retail chains. In all, it's a great story of a well-deserved success for a dedicated American with creativity and passion. [Click here to watch a recent interview with Noah on the national Vets to Work Program.](#)

—Howard Skolnik

**Skolnik Celebrates World Quality Day 2013**

Quality is no longer an option, it's a requirement! Celebrating quality has become an annual event at Skolnik. For the 6<sup>th</sup> year, on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Stephanie Bravo, our Assistant Director of Quality, hosted a day of quality awareness presentations ranging from on-line production issues to internal coating characteristics and application. Everyone in the company participated and increased their knowledge of our quality process, expectations, and opportunities for improvement. With the theme this year of "Making Collaboration Count," we are grateful for presentations that were given by Fred Chin of Universal Chemicals and Coatings, and Rufus Baygents, Assistant Maintenance Manager at Skolnik. In addition to the presentations, a food drive for BinDonated was successful in raising more than \$500 worth of food products and donations for a local Chicago community resource center. The day included a luncheon and awards ceremony highlighting the quality achievements of staff that exemplified the quality effort used in fulfilling our customer requirements. [Check out pictures from our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Quality Day here.](#)

—Howard Skolnik

**Unified Wine and Grape Symposium**

Skolnik Industries will once again be exhibiting at the 2014 Unified Wine and Grape Symposium which will be held January 28 - 30 in Sacramento, CA. 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. The trade show is home to over 650 suppliers to the wine and grape industry. With more than 13,400 industry professionals attending, the symposium has established a reputation for providing outstanding, current and breaking news, as well as information and content that benefits the industry. 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. A highlight of the 2014 event will be the keynote speaker, Jerry Baldwin, former owner of Peet's Coffee and Starbucks co-founder, who will present the opening day luncheon address. His unmatched expertise on marketing and customer service will make for a powerful opening day. Baldwin purchased the Peet's chain in 1984 after learning much of the coffee trade directly from Alfred Peet, who founded the first coffee house under his name in Berkley, CA., in 1966. Before buying Peet's, Baldwin founded Starbucks in 1971 with Zev Siegl and Gordon Bowker. He now owns and operates a vineyard and J. Baldwin Wines in Glen Ellen, CA. Another new feature at the 2014 show will be a new mobile-smartphone website that will include a map of the show. Not only will you be able to use your smartphone to help you navigate the trade show floor, but you can also check out the program sessions. You will find Skolnik and our [stainless steel wine barrels](#) at booth number 1213. See you in Sacramento!

—Dean Ricker & Jason Snow



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## 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. <sup>®</sup>

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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