SEASONS GREETINGS EVERYONE!

RIPA wishes everyone the most joyful of holiday seasons!
We hope everyone has ample opportunity to gather and celebrate with family and friends.
Thank you for your support this past year! It was an eventful time for the association and our industry.
The New Year looks to be even more meaningful and fun! Cheers!

UN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS CLARIFIES IBC LEAKPROOFNESS TESTING RULES

After nearly two years of sometimes heated debate, the UN Committee of Experts has clarified key provisions of the Orange Book dealing with leakproofness testing of IBCs and other packagings. The new amendments make clear that manufacturers and reprocessors of IBCs and other packagings do not have to perform a full design test on each packaging made.

Although the Committee’s decision essentially codifies what has been common practice in most developed nations for years, this outcome was not pre-ordained. In fact, the Swedish Expert asked her colleagues to adopt a rule that would have eliminated all references to...
...continued page 3

HAZMAT CARRIERS: FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRASHES MAY GO UP

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has issued notice that it is considering raising the minimum financial responsibility levels for both “for-hire” and private carriers of hazardous materials (among other motor carrier entities). The current minimum levels of liability coverage for personal injury and property damage ($5 million per company) have not changed since 1985. All RIPA members that are private carriers of hazardous materials will be affected by this rulemaking. If FMCSA goes forward with increasing the minimum liability coverage, companies will be required to have twice as much (or more) in coverage, and insurance premiums will rise accordingly...
...continued page 4
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Another year has gone by, seemingly in the blink of an eye. It feels like yesterday that I was shoveling snow off my driveway and complaining about freezing temperatures. And yet here we are on the verge of another winter.

Looking back upon the past dozen months, it is surprising how much the association has accomplished and how many changes we have seen in the industry. Our spring Technical Conference at the Buckner facility in Birmingham, AL was a huge success. The plant was (and is) a showpiece, and attendees were treated like members of the family.

The Annual Conference in New Orleans, co-located with IPANA, was another high point. In addition to a number of exceptional speakers, the meeting featured our Supplier Members who help the organization in so many ways. The Conference concluded on a high-note, with a festive evening honoring our outgoing general counsel Larry Bierlein. Saying good-bye to Larry was bittersweet; his 34 years of work for RIPA featured success story after success story, but he left happy, healthy and on top of his game. He even helped us recruit his highly qualified successor, Rick Schweitzer.

Early in the year, RIPA unveiled a comprehensive life cycle analysis, which showed convincingly that all the major styles of reusable packagings (i.e. steel and plastic drums, and composite IBCs) emit substantially less greenhouse gases per trip than do comparable new packagings. The study and accompanying eco-calculator are on our website for all to see HERE.

RIPA continues to provide exceptional value for members by coordinating design type tests on various styles of packagings, including steel drums and IBCs. Members also have access to an MSDS fax-on-demand service at a deeply reduced rate, which satisfies OHSA’s hazard communication rules. Our worker training program and a new training module on the Globally Harmonized (hazard communication) System is also available. Last, but not least, RIPA published its triennial Industry Statistical Survey, which compiled industry production figures for FY 2012 for all types of packagings. The survey is available HERE.

RIPA remains highly active in international packaging forums, including work with the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB). Working through ICCR, the association recently helped to craft an amendment to the UN Model Regulations that clarifies leakproofness testing which producers and reconditioners must perform on new designs and during production runs. (See associated story on pg. 1) The association is assisting its Canadian members and the CGSB develop new standards for the production and reprocessing of intermediate bulk containers.

2015 promises to be even busier than this past year. Not only will the association host a Spring Technical Meeting and Fall Annual Conference, the association is hosting the 15th International Conference on Industrial Packaging in Vancouver, B.C. I encourage every member to set aside a week in June to attend the International Conference (June 3-5, 2015). If you have not had an opportunity to attend one of these events, or to experience the magical city of Vancouver, B.C., you need to put this on your bucket list. I promise you, you will have the time of your life.

C.L and I wish you and your families a most joyous holiday season and New Year. See you in 2015!!
design testing, which could have inadvertently allowed packaging producers to perform production
tests at any level with no requirement that the tests result in the manufacture of packagings
“capable” of meeting the original design test.

ICCR played a pivotal role in the final decision. This, despite the fact that the group’s Europe-
an and North American associations perform production leakproofness testing differently.

ICCR developed and submitted an information paper (INF 26) seeking to postpone a final deci-
sion. However, after the ICCR paper was filed, Belgium and The Netherlands introduced a joint
INF paper keeping much of the existing UN regulatory language but saying production testing
should be conducted in accordance with a Quality Assurance program.

Both SERRED and RIPA agreed this new approach would be acceptable because it resolved
concerns about the need to approach design and production testing differently, and ensured all
packaging must be “capable” of meeting the original design criteria.

ICCR threw its support behind the ideas put forward in the Belgian/Netherlands paper and in-
roduced a new paper (INF 66) seeking some additional clarification between design qualification
testing and daily production testing.

When the Swedish paper came up for floor discussion, Sweden acknowledged that they could
agree with INF 43 as it had been introduced. Belgium and The Netherlands spoke for their INF 43
as it had been originally drafted. They did not include the hand-written deletions that had been
pushed by Germany and ICIBCA.

During debate, ICCR Delegation Chair Paul Rankin spoke for ICCR. He state that ICCR
agreed with the original Belgium/Netherlands paper, with further clarifications. Despite calls by
German and several other Experts to delete all specific references to testing performance capabil-
ity, the vast majority of national experts threw their support behind Belgium/Netherlands. France
offered minor adjustments to some of the introductory language of the packaging sections that
would accomplish what ICCR’s Note would have done, making our Note unnecessary.

“The Model Regulations testing provisions should be clearer in meaning with these changes,”
says RIPA President Paul Rankin. “Further, no manufacturer or reconditioner will need to change
any current practices,” he noted.
increase the minimum liability requirements, it does state that a recent report to Congress provided preliminary support for increasing the current levels of financial responsibility. The study found that fewer than 1% of all commercial motor vehicle crashes per year resulted in claims for injury, death, and/or property damages that exceed the current minimum levels of financial responsibility. The study also claimed that insurance rates have declined slightly since 1985, hovering around $5,000 per power unit.

The FMCSA seeks information on the following topics:

- Data is needed on current insurance rates by type of carrier, and the relationship between rates and safety performance;

- How often is the financial responsibility exceeded by damages caused by the release of hazardous materials from a carrier?

- How often do damages from crashes exceed the current liability levels? And how often do carriers go bankrupt following a crash with damages in excess of the minimum requirements?

- Does an increase in financial responsibility requirements affect small and large motor carriers differently? And how would an increase affect the ability of carriers to obtain insurance coverage?

Today, private (and for-hire) motor carriers of hazardous materials are required to maintain $5 million in financial responsibility. This can be secured through insurance, a bond, or another financial security.

The insurance underwriting process is specific to individual motor carriers and there are no uniform pricing practices (other than limits that might be imposed by State regulations). Moreover, motor carrier risk managers are generally reluctant to disclose their insurance premium expenses.

Comments on the proposed new requirements are due February 26, 2015. Working with Counsel, Rick Schweitzer, RIPA will prepare and submit comments. Staff will be consulting with members as appropriate for data and information needed to prepare effective comments. Meanwhile, members with any comments, questions or concerns should contact C.L. Pettit at the RIPA office (301-577-3786).
JEFF HART STEPS DOWN AS COE CHAIR; DOT’S PFUND TAKES THE GAVEL

After six years at the helm of the UN Committee of Experts (COE), United Kingdom’s Jeff Hart has decided to retire both from his position at the UN and his job with the UK Ministry of Transport. Mr. Hart was highly regarded for his deep knowledge of international transport regulations, and he was an exceptionally fair leader of the UN COE.

Taking his place as COE Chair will be Duane Pfund, who has been the U.S. Delegation Chair for many years, and most recently was asked to serve as Deputy Associate Administrator of the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety.

“Jeff Hart did an outstanding job leading the Committee of Experts,” said RIPA President Paul Rankin. “His expertise and even-handed approach to the job will be missed. However, those of us who know Duane Pfund appreciate that he brings equal expertise and dedication to the position,” noted Rankin. “Duane will be a great Committee Chairman,” said Rankin.

Mr. Jeff Hart in a retirement robe, flanked by Shane Kelley and Duane Pfund

CCSB AGREES TO REVISIT PACKAGING RESIDUE AMENDMENT

The Commodity Classification Standards Board (CCSB) has agreed to a RIPA request to re-open a recently adopted amendment to the National Motor Freight Classification (NMFC) that defines an “empty” non-bulk packaging as one that meets the requirements of 49 CFR 173.29. In essence, this means that packagings retaining even very small amounts of hazardous residue will be treated by commercial carriers as if they were full.

The CCSB is a Board that adopts classifications of commodities based on density, handling, stowability and liability. The classifications are used by motor carriers to establish freight rates, although shippers are always free to negotiate alternative rates.

RIPA President Paul Rankin and General Counsel Rick Schweitzer met recently with CCSB Chairman Joel Makeover and expressed concern that the new amendment, while well intended, could create safety problems for carriers if shippers fail to fully clean emptied containers and then, as the classification requires, strip off hazard warnings and labels.

Rankin noted that since there is no accepted definition of the regulatory term “clean…and purge”, shippers would be free to decide how much or how little material could remain in the container. “In an accident scenario, it is possible that both drivers and emergency responders would not know what kind of material is in a given container,” said Rankin.

RIPA has submitted a proposed amendment to CCSB that it believes would solve the problem by defining an “empty container” as one that meets either 49 CFR 173.29 or 40 CFR 261.7. The latter cite is the EPA empty container rule. The issue will be formally considered at the CCSB meeting in June, 2015.

“I certainly hope that CCSB will see the wisdom of our proposal,” said Rankin. “The Board relies almost exclusively on DOT requirements as guidance, so they may not wish to include the EPA exception in the rule,” said Rankin. However, he noted, the association is pleased the Board has agreed to formally take up the RIPA proposal.
Practicing quality is a daily staple at Skolnik, but celebrating quality comes but once a year. Connected to the World Quality Day program, we dedicate one day each November to enrich and support the quality culture that exists at Skolnik. Driven by our Nuclear Quality Assurance program (NQA-1), the attention to detail is critical in all facets of our manufacturing process. On Quality Day, we bring the international connection to Skolnik and link up with customers, vendors, guests and the entire Skolnik staff – factory, office, sales and maintenance. Organized by Stephanie Bravo, Skolnik’s Quality Manager, this year’s theme was Building a Quality World Together and presentations were given by our Warehouse Manager, Bob Kicmal, and Purchasing Manager, Josh Ford. All Skolnik employees attended unique quality training programs, saw demonstrations of best quality practices and shared a lunch together coming together to find solutions to unique, life threatening situations. A case in point is a recent interview with an 8-year-old boy in Mahwah, New Jersey that, with the help of his parents, invented a self-cleaning HazMat Suit to prevent the spread of Ebola. The invention was part of a National Museum of Education competition and won first place! The suit is made from pockets filled with a disinfecting solution. The pockets are inflated using a hand pump, forcing disinfectant out of small holes, killing the virus on the suit.

Check out the video interview with 8-year-old Mark Leschinsky and hear the story of his invention.

Also, if you are interested in taking the HazMat professional career concept to a local school or social gathering, you can view our own Hazmat Awareness presentation. This presentation is also available on DVD. Please email howard@skolnik.com to receive a free copy.

—Howard Skolnik
What's New at Unified 2015

(Continued from page 1)

tasting. Leticia Chacón-Rodríguez, director of operations for Safe Harbor Wines, will moderate a panel including representatives from Jackson Family Wines, Treasury Wine Estates, Deerfield Ranch Winery and Turkovich Family Wines. The session will focus on red wine cultivars not often labeled as varietal wines and detail how to control vigor, manage cluster size and maximize yields. Next, winemaking and grapegrowing sessions will run concurrently, with each of them focusing on ways to save water. In the grapegrowing session, Francisco Araujo of Atlas Vineyard Management will moderate a panel called Water Application Efficiency and Vine Response to Irrigation. Speaking with Cecilia Aguero from UC Davis and Martin Mendez-Costabel of E. & J. Gallo Winery, Araujo will discuss grapevine physiology and the latest technology for irrigation. Cristina de la Presa of E. & J. Gallo Winery will talk with Anibal Catania of UC Davis and Sir Walter Jorge from Gallo about developing water strategies and adding water to high-Brix must. To learn more about registration, educational sessions and the trade show at the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium, visit unifiedsymposium.org. You will be able visit Skolnik Industries at the 2015 Unified Show at booth number 1119.

—Dean Ricker
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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