

EFIBCA is the voice of the European FIBC industry. In this issue:

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EFIBCA NEWS

Roelof Veld new EFIBCA President

Roelof Veld of NNZ BV was elected as president of the European Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container Association (EFIBCA) at the Annual General Meeting on 29 September 2015 in Barcelona, Spain.



As Business Unit Manager, Industry at NNZ BV, a Dutch company specializing in agricultural and industrial packaging solutions, Roelof draws on 18 years of experience in the FIBC sector from which the Association has already profited during his 8-year tenure on EFIBCA's Executive Council.

Mr Veld succeeds Oliver Grütters, Boxon GmbH, who reached the maximum two consecutive terms as EFIB-

CA President and continues to serve on the EFIBCA Council. "Roelof has been making an impact in the Council for years, and I am very pleased that we have elected such an experienced and competent candidate," says Grütters, under whose leadership the association's membership grew by nearly 30 percent.

During his two-year term as president, Mr Veld aims to uphold EFIBCA as a leading international networking platform for all stakeholders with an interest in the European FIBC market and to extend the global outreach of EFIBCA. "We need to continue to pursue high quality standards on the European FIBC market through our existing programme, EFIBCA-Q Quality Pledge, but also promote them via international standards, research, and education of EFIBCA members and FIBC users," says Veld. Corporate Social Responsibility, fair trade and fair competition are also areas garnering attention in the industry and will continue to be on the EFIBCA agenda.

Further members of the EFIBCA Executive Council are Dr. Amir Samadjavan (Greif), Christian Leeb (Starlinger), Mumit Abdul (Sinobangla Industries), Arnaldo Carbognani (Carbognani), Joan Climent (Climesa), Oliver Grütters (Boxon), Theodor Burckhardt (Burckhardt) and Elvin Mizzeyev (RAM). a.bouchat@efibca.com

LEGISLATION, STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY

Recyclclass: a tool to assess the recyclability of plastic packaging

By Paolo Glerean

Introduction

Recyclclass is an online tool (www.recyclclass.eu) created and developed by Plastics Recyclers Europe (www.plasticsrecyclers.eu), the European Association of Plastics Recyclers based in Brussels and representing more than 80% of plastics recycling capacity in Europe.

This tool was presented in May 2014 in the opening day of Interpack Exhibition in Düsseldorf with the endorse-

ment of the former EU Commissioner for Environment Janez Potocnick.



The aim of the tool – free of charge until now – is to help packaging designers, brand owners and retailers to evaluate the recyclability of their plastic packages in the current European recycling streams and to get feedback on what has to be changed in order to improve the recyclability itself.

The tool is based on question areas that drive the user through the decision-tree behind the tool; at the end of the analysis a complete report showing questions and answers given is sent via email in .pdf format to the mailbox of the user. There are basically two outcomes in every analysis:

1. Recyclability class, from A (best) to F;
2. Evidence based on answers/design choices that caused a downgrading in this evaluation.

The user can easily go back through the path and simulate different design choices and immediately see the impact that they can have in the final result.

Question areas are:

1. Suitability: some preliminary questions are asked in order to check if the specific package is suitable for analysis (i.e. it can be sorted as plastic package in a sorting plant);
2. Type of packaging: the user will be asked to choose between some specific packaging groups (PET clear or coloured bottle, HDPE or PP bottle, Pots/Tubs/Blisters/Trays in polyolefins, HDPE/PP pallets and crates, flexible films). Behind every group there is a specific design-for-recycling guideline that will drive the next steps. For packaging outside of these categories there is the "Others" option. In this case the user will be asked for additional information as there are no specific guidelines.
3. Specific question areas:

- a. General questions: these will be asked in order to understand the composition of the packaging and if the materials used in the packaging can feed the existing EU recycling streams;
- b. Design-for-recycling questions (if present): the user will be asked to answer some specific questions about the structure of his packaging (materials of body, labels, inks, glues, colours, barrier, etc.); design-for-recycling guidelines indicate three different categories: not affecting recycling process (recyclability class will not be downgraded), affecting recycling process but in an acceptable way (recyclability class will be downgraded by one letter), seriously affecting recycling process in an unacceptable way (recyclability class will be downgraded by three letters);
- c. Recycled content: the user will be asked to indicate the percentage of recycled plastics content. This will be indicated in the final evaluation with one or more "+"; the more plusses, the higher the percentage of recycled plastic;
- d. Easy-to-empty / Easy-to-access: it is an index given after ten emptying tests; for every (average) 5% of net content that remains in the package after emptying, the tool calculates a downgrading of one class;
- e. REACH compliance: the tool will ask if the package is made of some Substance of Very High Concern.

At the end the user will be asked if he wants to complete the analysis; if yes, the report will be sent to him in .pdf format and the analysis will be saved in the specific user account; otherwise the user can scroll up the tool and change some parameters to simulate different options and see what impact they will have on the final result.

In every step the user can access a manual and an "Info" area that can support him in his analysis.

Packages like PP big bags can be analyzed – even if there are no specific design-for-recycling guidelines for them. In this case, old PP big bags can easily feed specific existing recycling streams or, at least, feed mixed polyolefins recycling streams. The main part of the body is PP, so this will get a good yield in the recycling process, especially if the label is made of the same material as the body.

If the big bag is made partially in recycled plastics, it can get some "+"s depending on how much recycled con-

tent is in it. Because of the high weight usually contained in big bags, the easy-to-empty index does not exceed 5% and no downgrading is applied.

In case of hazardous goods contained by the big bag, this will make the package unsuitable for the analysis; the user can still proceed, but the final result will show this information.

Finally, you can find the report of one simulation I did on a PP big bag (<http://efibca.com/newsletter.html>). You can in any case easily register at www.recyclclass.eu and try to analyze your packages to see how Recyclclass works and how recyclable your packages actually are.

About the Author



Paolo Glerean is responsible for the PET rigid film sales department, strategic business, and public affairs at Aliplast spa, Italy. He is also board member of the Plastics Recyclers Europe Association and Assorimap (Italian plastics Recyclers Association).

CONFERENCE REPORTS / PREVIEWS

5th EFIBCA Open Meeting in Barcelona a success



On 30 September 2015 EFIBCA held its fifth Open Meeting in Barcelona, Spain. This year over 60 delegates from Europe, Near and Far East and Africa capitalized on the opportunity for exchange and discussion on current business aspects affecting the FIBC community. On the agenda were presentations on markets, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, quality and safety.

Delegates followed Nandita Lal's (Platts) presentation with great interest as she illustrated how the "perfect storm" on the raw materials market developed, leading to the 2015 price shocks for polymers like polypropylene, the material from which FIBC are woven. On the

other end of the spectrum, the presentation on Plastic Waste Recycling in Practice by Markus Dambeck (RIGK) generated keen interest as he reported on the process of and opportunities for recycling FIBC. "Our aim was get a good mix of speakers to inform delegates about developments in the market and regulations but also to hear about practical application from experts in the field," explains conference organizer, Allison Bouchat of EFIBCA.

Other topics included the complex quality and safety regulations governing FIBC, and how to leverage quality programmes like EFIBCA-Q and declarations of compliance. Social Compliance in the Supply Chain was treated in an interactive session with Norma Snell (Noble Achievers). She outlined the foundations and key elements of corporate social responsibility, discussing due diligence in the supply chain, social compliance programmes and the opportunities they offer.

"We were very pleased about the questions and discussions the speeches provoked both during the conference and afterwards at the closing cocktail reception. That speaks for the quality of the presentations and made the open meeting such a successful forum for information exchange," remarked EFIBCA Secretary



General, Dr Isabell Schmidt.

EFIBCA Open Meetings are held every one and a half years. All with an interest in the FIBC industry are welcome, not only association members. The next EFIBCA event open to the public will be a Dinner Reception on 3 May 2017 in Düsseldorf, Germany, the evening before the *interpack*, the world's largest packaging trade fair. a.bouchat@efibca.com

INTERNAL NEWS

New EFIBCA members

EFIBCA warmly welcomes 5 new members:

Lasheen Plastic Industries S.A.E. (April 2015) is a Cairo-based plastics manufacturer and producer of woven polymer products including FIBC and other packaging.

Polystar Tape & Fabric (PTY) Ltd, a manufacturer of FIBC and fabrics based in Brits, South Africa, joined EFIBCA in June 2015.

Uniqpack FIBC Packaging Co., Ltd (July 2015) operating out of Changzhou, China is a manufacturer of a wide range of FIBCs, Woven Geo-textiles and PP woven packages.

Austria-based Gabriel-Chemie Ges.m.b.H joined as EFIBCA associate member in July 2015. As a leading masterbatch producer, they specialise in the development and production of additives and colouring for the refining of plastics.

Swissi Process Safety GmbH is a Test House and division of TÜV Süd based in Basel, Switzerland. Specializing in quality services in the fields of risk analysis, thermal process safety, chemical reaction hazards, explosion protection, ignition due to static electricity sources and chemical safety, Swissi joined EFIBCA as associate member in October 2015.

MARKET NEWS

FIBC Imports to the EU finish strong in 2014

After only moderate results at mid-year, the 2014 data for FIBC imports into the EU shows growth of ca. 10% in terms of value and volume. This is a strong finish for the

year and on a par with 2013 figures.

Table 1 Total FIBC Imports to the EU

	2014	2013	Growth
Imports to the EU28 in m €	401	364	10,0%
Total Imports to EU28 in 1000 kg	162.227	147.465	9,9%

Source: EFIBCA 2015 (based on Eurostat)

Of the 162 K tonnes imported, 75% originated from the two largest exporters, India and Turkey, confirming the mid-year trend. In fact, India has overtaken Turkey as the number one exporter to the EU. In 2013 India had already exceeded Turkey in terms of tonnage, but not by value. In 2014 with 49% import share by quantity and 42% by value, India has secured rank 1 for itself. Exporting over 41 thousand tonnes of FIBC, Turkey is still a major player, but Turkish imports to the EU have fallen off by ca. 3%.

Particularly robust growth was registered by Bangladesh. With 12K tonnes it has superseded China as 3rd largest exporter, and now commands 8% of the volume based exports to the EU compared to China's 6%. With steady year on year increases, Serbia ranks as 5th largest importer with 4% market share by value and 3% by volume. Vietnam surrendered rank 6 to Thailand value-wise, but is still among the top exporters in terms of

Table 2 Total FIBC Imports from individual countries to the EU28

Top 6 by value (million Euro)

Rank	Country	2014		2013	
		FIBC exports to the EU (m €)	Share of total imports to the EU (%)	FIBC exports to the EU (m €)	Share of total imports to the EU (%)
1 ↗	INDIA	166.9	41.7	137.0	37.6
2 ↘	TURKEY	135.6	33.9	138.8	38.1
3 ↗	BANGLADESH	24.4	6.1	16.3	4.5
4 ↘	CHINA	23.4	5.9	27.3	7.5
5 →	SERBIA	16.0	4.0	12.9	3.5
6 ↗	THAILAND	7.7	1.9	7.9	2.2

Top 6 by quantity (1000 kg)

Rank	Country	2014		2013	
		FIBC exports to the EU (1000 kg)	Share of total imports to the EU (%)	FIBC exports to the EU (1000 kg)	Share of total imports to the EU (%)
1 →	INDIA	79,723	49.2	66,359	45.0
2 →	TURKEY	41,330	25.5	42,682	29.0
3 ↗	BANGLADESH	12,332	7.6	8,663	5.9
4 ↘	CHINA	9,008	5.6	11,703	7.9
5 ↗	SERBIA	5,375	3.3	4,414	3.0
6 ↘	VIETNAM	3,352	2.1	4,829	3.3

Source: EFIBCA 2014 (based on Eurostat) HY = Half Year

→ no change in rank compared to previous year ↗ up in rank compared to previous year ↘ down in rank compared to previous year

volume.

On the whole, the FIBC market remains highly competitive and dynamic. The shift from traditionally strong supplying countries to countries with cheaper production continues. a.bouchat@efibca.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIBC Calendar

EFIBCA Council Meeting
19 January 2016, Bad Homburg, Germany
www.efibca.com

IPF Bangladesh 2016
20 - 23 January 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh
<http://www.bangla-expo.com/IPF/>

Interplastica
26 - 29 January 2016, Moscow, Russia
<http://www.interplastica.de/>

Plastics Rubber Vietnam
01 - 03 March 2016, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
<http://plasticsvietnam.com/en/home/>

PFP Expo Sino-Pack
02 - 04 March 2016, Guangzhou, China
<http://www.chinasinopack.com/>

Plastimagen
08 - 11 March 2016, Mexico City, Mexico
<http://www.plastimagen.com.mx/en>

Propak South Africa
15 - 18 March 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa
<http://www.propakafrika.co.za/>

3P Pakistan
15 - 17 March 2016, Karachi, Pakistan
<http://plasprintpack.com.pk/>

Plast Algier
05 - 07 April 2016, Algiers, Algeria
http://www.plastalger.com/plastalger_e.html

FIBCA Conference
6 - 8 April, 2016, Miami Beach, USA
<http://fibca.com/>

Plastteknik
13 - 14 April, 2016, Malmö, Sweden
http://www.easyfairs.com/de/events_216/plastteknik-nordic-2016

POWTECH
19 - 21 April, 2016, Nuremberg, Germany
<http://www.powtech.de>

Refocus Recycling Summit & Expo
25 - 27 April 2016, Orlando, USA
<http://www.refocussummit.org/>

Techtextil North America
3 - 5 May 2016, Atlanta, USA
<http://www.techtextilna.com>

ITM
01 - 06 June 2016, Istanbul, Turkey
<http://www.itm2016.com.tr/itm2016en/index.html>

EFIBCA Council Meeting
28 September 2016, Basel, Switzerland
www.efibca.com

EFIBCA Annual General Meeting
29 September 2016, Basel, Switzerland
www.efibca.com

K 2016
19 - 26 October 2016, Düsseldorf, Germany
<http://www.k-online.com/>

Orange: EFIBCA meetings

Lilac: external conferences

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