

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

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EFIBCA NEWS

EFIBCA releases the 1st FIBC User Guide at the 2016 Annual General Meeting in Basel

This year EFIBCA welcomed 30 guests from near and far at its Annual General Meeting on 29 September 2016 in



Basel, Switzerland. The Secretariat and association President, Mr. Roelof Veld, were particularly pleased to present and distribute the freshly printed *"FIBC User Guide: Guide for the Safe Use of Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers"* to its members.

When long-standing EFIBCA Council Member, Joan Climent, kicked off the User Guide project some years ago, the goal was not only to create a comprehensive FIBC manual, combining the various aspects of this versatile product. The aim was also to tap the knowledge and expertise residing within the EFIBCA member base

in the process. The English-language work was written together with EFIBCA members and subject matter experts, whose combined knowledge give a unique perspective and depth to this handy reference.



The 72-page User Guide contains chapters on topics ranging from FIBC selection, handling and safety, to certification and regulation, UV resistance, recycling and food safety. "At last we have a document that captures everything about FIBCs in one place. Otherwise, information about FIBC is scattered here and there, so I am excited," enthused EFIBCA Vice President for Communications, Mr. Christian Leeb.

The FIBC User Guide is intended as a reference for FIBC manufacturers and their suppliers, FIBC retailers and FIBC users. Currently the EFIBCA FIBC User Guide is only available through EFIBCA Members in printed format. However, an electronic edition is already planned for wider distribution as a .PDF document.

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LEGISLATION, STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY

The "CE" marking and FIBC

EFIBCA has observed tendencies on the market to affix the CE marking on FIBCs. However, marking FIBC with the CE label is not permissible according to European legislation!



The CE marking is a mandatory conformity marking for certain products sold within the European Economic Area (EEA). By affixing the CE marking to a product, a manufacturer declares that the product meets all the legal requirements for CE marking and can be sold throughout the EEA.

This also applies to products made in other countries that are sold in the EEA. CE stands for French "Conformité Européenne", meaning "European Conformity".

But not all products require a CE marking. It is only compulsory for most of the products covered by the New Approach Directives. In fact, it is forbidden to affix CE marking to other products.

Some have claimed that that FIBC (or parts of them) can be categorized as a "lifting accessory", and should therefore be marked, but these claims are false. Lifting accessories do fall under the scope of the Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, to which the CE marking applies, but FIBC are not included.

All product groups subject to CE marking and the applicable directive(s) and harmonized standards can be checked with help of the EU Commission's guidance on CE marking for manufacturers. Further information on the CE marking and its application can be found under www.efibca.com.

Important changes to the European food contact regulations

Also known as the "Plastics Regulation" or the "Plastics Implementation Measure" PIM, Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 establishes migration limits for plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food which can potentially transfer toxic substances and pose a danger to human health. This central European regulation has already been amended 5 times since its entry into force in 2011. Yet these changes had little or no effect on the conformity work of the manufacturers of plastic packaging for food contact. The Plastics Regulation's 6th and latest amendment of 25 August 2016, however, includes changes of fundamental importance.

The new Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1416 amends and corrects Regulation (EU) No 10/2011. It includes, in particular, the following amendments / additions:

- Deletion of Article 11 (2) in Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 concerning the general specific migration limit (SML) value of 60 mg / kg food
- Additions and adjustments to the union list
- Numerous changes in detail regarding test conditions and test simulants

Employees responsible for the conformity work in their companies should familiarize themselves with these changes.

A table summarising the changes relevant for plastics packaging is available for EFIBCA members under the Members' Section of the EFIBCA website. To find out more about becoming a member contact secretariat@efibca.com.

CONFERENCE REPORTS / PREVIEWS

As interpack 2017 approaches, EFIBCA gears up for its 2nd Dinner Reception

Following the positive feedback of its first event in 2014, EFIBCA will host a dinner reception on the eve of the 2017 *interpack* trade fair in Düsseldorf, Germany on 3rd May, 2017. To be held at the



Hyatt Regency Hotel in Düsseldorf's Media District, EFIBCA hopes to welcome both Members and non-members either visiting or exhibiting at the packaging industry's largest and best known exhibition.

EFIBCA will also be present at the *interpack*, with a stand at the IK booth (German Association for Plastics Packaging and Films). Visitors can learn more about the association, its members and initiatives, including the EFIBCA-Q Quality Pledge and the new "EFIBCA User Guide". a.bouchat@efibca.com

INTERNAL NEWS

New EFIBCA members

EFIBCA warmly welcomes 7 new members:

Lithuanian Achempak manufactures and designs polypropylene flexible intermediate bulk containers for the packing, transportation and storage of a wide range of free flowing materials.

Headquartered in Moscow, Russia, Chempack produces FIBC and polypropylene bags for transportation of more than 200 kinds of free-flowing materials.

Debant Ukraine LLC manufactures FIBC, PP fabric, covers and liners and is based in the Ukraine.

JOKE Folienschweißtechnik GmbH specializes in tailor-made machines in the field of film sealing technology and is based in Germany.

Shree Tirupati Balajee FIBC Pvt. is an Indian producer of a wide range of FIBC and liners.

Shuan Shin Filter Cloth Co. Ltd is a Taiwan-based manufacturer of FIBC and air filter bags.

Based in Istanbul, Turkey, Sunbag Packaging is a manufacturer of a wide range of FIBC and accessories.

MARKET NEWS

Import of FIBC to the EU: Results for 1st half of 2016 show mixed results

The first half of 2016 is showing a decline in value based imports of FIBC to the EU28 of almost 2.5% while the volume based imports have grown by almost 7% compared to the same period last year (see Table 1).

Table 1 Total FIBC Imports to the EU

	2016 1HY	2015 1HY	Growth
Imports to the EU28 in m €	216.8	222.1	-2.4
Total Imports to EU28 in 1000 kg	93,433	87,398	6.9

Source: EFIBCA 2016 (based on Eurostat)

The large gap between the euro growth figures compared to the hearty growth in volume might be explained by the drop in raw materials prices at the beginning of 2016 and the relatively strong euro against the currencies of the largest FIBC exporters to Europe in the first half of the year.

The top five importers (see Table 2) have maintained

their rankings, although Thailand, with an impressive 45% boost, has claimed rank 6 for volume based exports from Vietnam for the first half of the year. While India and Bangladesh continue to grow their market share, Turkey's share is still declining, but by less than in the previous year. Interestingly, Bangladesh's growth rate (vol.) has cooled off markedly. In 2015, the country's exports grew by 25% for the year, compared to a mere 2% this year so far.

Looking back on 2015, Europe's demand for FIBC imports reached an all-time high of €435.5 Mio, an increase of 8.7%. This was down from 2014 results (10%), but solid and slightly ahead of the 5% growth expectations for the packaging and plastics industries as a whole. That industry prognosis seemed confirmed looking at the volume based import statistics for FIBC, showing growth of 5.7%, with ca. 172 thousand tonnes of FIBCs.

The top six importers maintained their rankings for another year in a row, but with ca. 82%, the top three, India, Turkey and Bangladesh, accounted for the majority of imports to the EU by far.

While India and Bangladesh continued to grow their market share, Turkey's share fell off by 7.6% and 10.7% by value and volume respectively. Still, the "number 2" supplied roughly a quarter of the imports to the EU, somewhat less by volume but more by value. China leads the bottom half of the chart and managed to stop or at least reduce the dramatic double digit decline in its exports to the EU in 2014. Following the trend of the previous years, in 2016 China still holds on to rank 3, but continues to post sizeable losses in market share (ca. 22%) in Europe. China is the number 1 exporter of FIBC to the US market, which suggests that its strategic focus lies outside of Europe. a.bouchat@efibca.com

Table 2 Total FIBC Imports from individual countries to the EU28

Top 6 by value (million euro)

Rank	Country	2016 1HY		2015 1HY	
		FIBC exports to the EU (m €)	Share of total imports to the EU (%)	FIBC exports to the EU (m €)	Growth (%)
1 →	INDIA	101.0	46.6	98.4	2.6
2 →	TURKEY	63.6	29.3	66.7	-4.7
3 →	BANGLADESH	15.6	7.2	17.2	-9.5
4 →	CHINA	9.5	4.4	12.3	-22.9
5 →	SERBIA	7.7	3.5	7.7	-0.3
6 →	THAILAND	4.5	2.1	4.1	9.5

Top 6 by quantity (1000 kg)

Rank	Country	2016 1HY		2015 1HY	
		FIBC exports to the EU (1000 kg)	Share of total imports to the EU (%)	FIBC exports to the EU (1000 kg)	Growth (%)
1 →	INDIA	51,536	55.2	44,358	16.2
2 →	TURKEY	18,744	20.1	19,874	-5.7
3 →	BANGLADESH	8,275	8.9	8,099	2.2
4 →	CHINA	3,459	3.7	4,393	-21.3
5 →	SERBIA	2,771	3	2,769	0.1
6 ↗	THAILAND	2,051	2	1,414	45

Source: EFIBCA 2016 (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

UPCOMING EVENTS

FIBC Calendar

Arabplast
8 – 10 January 2017, Dubai, UAE
<http://www.arabplast.info/>

Plastivision
19 - 23 January 2017, Mumbai, India
<http://www.plastivision.org/>

Interplastica
24 - 27 January 2017, Moscow, Russia
<http://www.interplastica.de/>

Upakovka Processing and Packaging
24 - 27 January 2017, Moscow, Russia
<http://www.upakovka-tradefair.com/>

EFIBCA Council Meeting
09 February 2017, Bad Homburg, Germany
www.efibca.com

Plastics Recycling Conference
06 – 08 March 2017, New Orleans, USA
<http://www.plasticsrecycling.com/>

FIBCA Conference
22 – 24 March, 2017, San Antonio, USA
<http://fibca.com>

3P Pakistan
24 - 26 March 2017, Lahore, Pakistan
<http://www.plasprintpack.com.pk/>

World FIBC Congress
01 – 02 May 2017, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
<http://www.mcimedia.com/>

2nd EFIBCA Dinner Reception
03 May 2017, Düsseldorf, Germany
www.efibca.com

interpack
04 - 10 May 2017, Düsseldorf, Germany
<http://www.interpack.com/>

Techtextil
09 - 12 May, 2017, Frankfurt a.M., Germany
<http://techtextil.messefrankfurt.com/>

Chinaplas
16 - 19 May, 2017, Guangzhou, China
<http://chinaplasonline.com/>

Techtextil North America
20 – 22 June 2017, Chicago, USA
<http://techtextil-northamerica.us.messefrankfurt.com/>

Orange: EFIBCA meetings

Lilac: external conferences

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