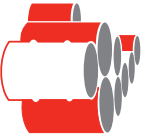


Steel Drum and Pail Accessory Compatibility

When specifying new steel drums and pails it is important that careful consideration be given to all materials of construction, particularly those that might come in contact with your product – whether it is hazardous or non-hazardous – to be sure that they are compatible. The selection of plugs, flanges, gaskets, interior treatments, removable liners, and end seam sealers should be given the same scrutiny as you would for interior linings to insure that the containers will perform satisfactorily. Part 173.24(e)(1) of Title 49 CFR, Hazardous Materials Regulations, states that it is, “the responsibility of the person offering a hazardous material for transportation to ensure that such packagings are compatible with their lading.”



Steel Shipping
Container Institute

1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 1001

Washington, DC 20005

202.408.1900

www.steelcontainers.com

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In addition to these regulatory requirements, you will also have to consider the effects that packaging components have on your products.

Compatibility has two considerations. First, the effects of products on packaging components. Second, the effects of packaging components on products contained in the packaging.

Many of these components have been laboratory and field tested over the years to insure they are suitable for the lading being packaged. However, as innovations in container technology are adopted and as new fill products are introduced or reformulations of existing ones evolve, container components that previously may have been acceptable no longer may perform as expected.

Therefore, all container components should be periodically evaluated to be sure that they meet the specific performance requirements for the products you package. Such things as open head cover gaskets, steel, nylon or plastic plugs and their gaskets, removable liners, and end seam sealers readily can be provided to you for your own evaluation. Usually, a simple lab test can prove invaluable in preventing a costly product claim. Of course, the various component suppliers are a prime source of information and are always available to lend their valuable suggestions.

Whether conducting your own laboratory tests, enlisting the expertise of the various components suppliers, or consulting with a third-party laboratory



or drum and pail manufacturer, it is advisable to bear in mind the adage “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” when it comes to container component selection. Full disclosure of the characteristics of the product to be

packaged for shipping is essential in determining the correct drum components — including gaskets, end seaming compound, fittings, linings and/or removable liners, etc. — for a particular application.

It is the filler's responsibility to select the proper container and container components consistent with the specifications of the fill product and to document these vital details in writing for the container manufacturer. As the product manufacturer or filler, you know its characteristics best and are, therefore, in an ideal position to understand all of the possible interactions between the product being filled and its package and components.

Your container supplier will be happy to assist you in your container component selections.

Note: The information contained in this brochure is based on SSCI's best knowledge as of the date of publication in 2006. It is the responsibility of any filler or user of steel drums and pails to ensure that the unique characteristics of products contained therein or any reformulation of products are accurately described to the drum/pail and lining manufacturers. Customers, fillers and users should consult the appropriate professional for assistance in compliance with the responsibilities outlined hereunder.