



Shipping Container Institute

NEWS

April – May 2006

SSCI NEWS

IPANA/SSCI Annual Meetings Focus on Information and Regulation

The Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA) and its four independent affiliates – including the Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI) – conducted annual meetings last month in Florida that focused on regulatory challenges affecting the industry both domestically and abroad. Additionally, the SSCI focused its efforts in marketing and information initiatives designed to grow the steel drum and pail markets and provide customers and prospects with valuable information to facilitate their packaging selection process.

A highlight of the two-day meeting was a plenary session that focused on preparing businesses to deal with catastrophic events such as natural occurrences (hurricanes and tornadoes) or terrorist incidents that could interrupt or shut down businesses for extended periods of time. Executives from two member firms – Doug Brooks of CP Louisiana, Inc. and Robert Evans, Jr. of Con-Tech Industries, Inc. – shared their first-hand experiences dealing with efforts to conduct their businesses in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and its related flooding of most of New Orleans. Shari Norris, a casualty insurance specialist with Scheers, Inc., provided invaluable information on disaster planning. (A copy of Ms. Norris' Power Point presentation containing a disaster planning check is available from the IPANA office.)

A second plenary session involved a presentation by Robert A. Richard, Associate Deputy Administrator, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHMS), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, DOT. Mr. Richard, who assumed his post earlier in the year, provided an update on domestic regulatory issues

packaging testing at Tobyhanna, and the agenda for the July meeting in Geneva of the U.N. Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

At separate SSCI sessions, members were briefed on staff efforts related to the Steel Packaging Appliance for Public Safety (SPAPS) as well as several customer-focused informational efforts that are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

SSCI Re-elects Len Berenfield To One Year Term as Chairman

At its meeting on April 11, SSCI members elected Leonard H. Berenfield, president and CEO, Berenfield Containers, Inc. to a second one year term as SSCI chairman. Lester Trilla, president, Trilla Steel Drum Corporation, was elected SSCI vice chairman for a second term.

John Dergentis, vice president/general manager-East, IP&S, Greif, Inc., again was elected treasurer while Earnest C. Beardsley, chairman, North Coast Container Corp., similarly was elected to another term as SSCI secretary.

TPC Finalizes Lining, Marking Publications

The SSCI's Technical Projects Committee at its April 11 meeting finalized two publications designed to assist steel container customers in the complexities of the packaging specifications process. One publication, *Certifiable UN Marks for Steel Drums and Pails*, is a

brochure focused on the issue of drum and pail markings. It was developed to address confusion regarding container markings and aid customers in container selection by providing clear, concise, and accurate information so that informed decisions can be made regarding appropriate packaging marks.

A second publication entitled, *Interior Lined Steel Drums and Pails*, provides important information that customers should evaluate in making a lining selection for their steel packaging. This brochure addresses such topics as choosing a packaging lining for new products as well as for reformulated products. It reminds customers that changes in fill temperature also can affect the efficacy of a lining. Additionally, the publication addresses the issue of “shelf life” as well as the customer’s responsibility for full disclosure as to a fill product’s characteristics in choosing steel packaging and related components.

Both brochures will be posted in electronic form on the SSCI web site (www.steelcontainers.com) and provided to SSCI manufacturer members in PDF format so that they can be appropriately branded and used by sales and marketing representatives in their individual customer contacts.

Additionally, at its meeting, the Technical Projects Committee recommended that the SSCI Board approve the production of additional brochures addressing such topics as accessories compatibility and closure awareness.

SSCI Color Selector Brochure Available Soon

The long delayed and much anticipated revision of the SSCI’s Color Selector Chart is near completion and the final product should be available to manufacturer members by Independence Day 2006. This revision, with production assistance provided by The Valspar Corporation, is the first since 1993.

The updated chart includes 20 colors adopted by the SSCI from the RAL Classic palette that is accepted worldwide. The RAL Classic palette of about 200 colors is widely known for its industrial application. The SSCI’s 20 RAL-based colors provide customers with a wide array of paint options to meet every application. Moreover, fourteen of the colors on the SSCI palette have been adopted virtually worldwide as they also are

included in the palettes of the European Association of Steel Drum Manufacturers (SEFA) and the Asia Oceanic Steel Drum Association (AOSD).

REGULATORY NEWS

PHMSA Reiterates Its Support For More Detailed Test Reports

At IPANA’s 2005 Fall Conference in Arlington, Virginia, Don Burger of the Office of Hazardous Materials Technology, PHMSA, made a plenary session presentation on the agency’s interest in having design type test reports prepared by self-certifying industrial packaging manufacturers mirror, in effect, the more detailed reports the agency requires from certified third-party testing laboratories. Mr. Burger noted that several templates for such design type test reports were posted on the agency’s web site.

Since September, Mr. Burger has briefed other industrial packaging groups as well as organizations representing the interests of fillers urging adoption of the more detailed design type test report templates. Additionally, the agency has posted additional templates on its web site covering a broad array of industrial packaging types.

Reportedly test reports from self-certifiers in qualifying packaging design types for hazardous materials are coming under heightened scrutiny at PHMSA due to their lack of uniformity and detail – detail that could be useful to inspectors in the field. Current test report regulations require ten areas of information and stipulate that the test report must be made available to a user of packaging or a PHMSA/DOT representative upon request.

The test report, at a minimum, must contain the following information: (1) name and address of test facility; (2) name and address of applicant (where appropriate); (3) an unique test report identification; (4) date of the test report; (5) manufacturer of the packaging; (6) description of the packaging design type (e.g., dimensions, materials, closures, thickness, etc.), including methods of manufacturer which may include drawings and/or photographs; (7) maximum capacity; (8) characteristics of test contents, e.g., viscosity and relative density for liquids and particle size for solids; (9) test descriptions and results; and, (10) signed with the name and title of the signatory.

Meanwhile, PHMSA, on its web site, has posted numerous model test reports (e.g., 1A1 and 1A2) that include fairly extensive descriptive data and drawings. (To see the design type test report templates [click here](#).)

Agency officials indicate that, for now, they are encouraging self-certifiers to utilize the test report templates in recording their design type testing. However, it is expected that if the level of detail in the design type test reports of self-certifying manufacturers in the coming months is not more robust, PHMSA may initiate a rulemaking to compel the more detailed reporting contained in the design type test templates on its web site.

At the recent meeting of the SSCI's Technical Projects Committee (TPC) in Florida, Chairman Jerry Massa observed that the design type test reports on the PHMSA web site appear to be tailored to third parties. They are, the agency acknowledged, while stating that PHMSA would like to see this level of detail in the reports of self-certifiers.

SSCI manufacturer members are encouraged to go to the PHMSA web site link above and download the steel container design type test report templates listed there. After reviewing the templates, please send any comments you may have to the SSCI office so that they can be aggregated for review and consideration by the TPC which will further consider this matter at its next meeting.

IPANA NEWS

Bob Harding Elected IPANA Chairman, Succeeding John Herrick

After serving as IPANA's chairman since the Alliance's inception in 2003, John F. Herrick, Jr., last month passed the gavel to Robert Harding, vice president, IBC North America, Clarkston, Michigan. Mr. Harding represents the Rigid Intermediate Bulk Container Association (RIBCA) on the IPANA Board. Mr. Herrick is the SSCI's representative.

In addition to electing Mr. Harding as IPANA chairman, the Alliance Board also elected Leonard H. Berenfield, president and CEO, Berenfield Containers, Inc., as vice chairman. He represents the International Fibre Drum Institute (IFDI) on the Board. Jerry Geyer,

product management & development director, Greif, Inc., the Plastic Drum Institute's representative on the IPANA Board, was elected secretary. Mr. Herrick, who remains on the Board, was elected treasurer.

Also, serving on the Board representing the voting interests of IPANA's Associate members is Jack Cooke, OEM sales manager, Basco, Inc.

In a related development, John Herrick, who also is the immediate past chairman of SSCI, was recognized for his leadership of IPANA during its formative years at the Alliance's Annual Awards Dinner in Florida. On behalf of IPANA members, Mr. Herrick was presented with a crystal diamond plaque etched with the IPANA logo, his name, the title "Founding Chairman 2003-2006," and the inscription "In Recognition of His Dedication, Vision and Leadership."

In remarks following presentation of the award, Mr. Herrick said he was gratified to have been involved in creating IPANA and proud to have been fortunate enough to have served as its founding chairman. While appreciative of the support of all IPANA members during his tenure, he reserved special thanks for Laura Beechwood of CDF Corporation, Doug Brooks of CP Louisiana, Inc., Kyle Stavig of Myers Container, Les Trilla of Trilla Steel Drum Corporation as well as Bill Sparks and Ron Brown of Greif, Inc. and IPANA Board members Bob Harding of IBC North America, Len Berenfield of Berenfield Containers, Inc., Jerry Geyer of Greif, Inc., and Jack Cooke of Basco, Inc.

He also thanked Chris Page, his boss at Cleveland Steel Container Corp, for allowing him the opportunity to be involved in the leadership of IPANA and SSCI. Finally, Mr. Herrick expressed appreciation to John McQuaid, IPANA's executive director, for his effective day-to-day management of the Alliance and strong support as a partner in helping IPANA to grow and prosper.

IPANA Membership Directory Update Underway

IPANA's Official Representatives (OR) should watch their e-mail inbox for a request from the IPANA office to confirm the accuracy of census data on file at the Alliance office.

IPANA periodically publishes an electronic membership directory for the confidential use of members in communicating with industry colleagues. In addition to each IPANA member company's Official Representative, the directory also lists other firm contacts, subject to the discretion of the OR.

When you receive your e-mail, please promptly review the census information accompanying it and provide the IPANA office with and additions, deletions, or changes.

OTHER NEWS

ASTM D10 Vibration Testing Completed

Almost one year after it was initiated, the series of industrial packaging vibration tests conducted under the auspices of the ASTM International's D10 technical group has been completed. In a brief update for SSCI members, D10's vibration test coordinator, Larry Anderson, Ten-E Packaging Services, Inc., reported that all of the steel drums tested passed.

Two package design types – 0.8/0.8/0/8 and 1.0/0.9/1.0 – provided by different steel drum manufacturers were subjected to three different test methods: (1) fixed frequency vibration (based on ASTM D 999 Method A1, similar to 49 CFR 178.608); (2) ASTM random vibration (based on ASTM D 4728 and ASTM D 4169-04); and, ISO random vibration (based on ISO 13355-2003).

The testing was initiated in 2005 because it appeared that the issue of vibration testing again would be brought up on the UN agenda for consideration in the 2005-2006 biennium. However, it now appears that a far-reaching vibration test provision will not be considered. Instead, the Sub-Committee of Experts (COE) is expected to focus on numerous issues, including vibration testing, affecting intermediate bulk containers (IBCs). Nonetheless, the COE's efforts bear close observation due to concerns that any new requirements adopted that affect IBCs could well be proposed, in the future, for application to other packaging types.

Mr. Anderson indicated that the full report on D10's vibration test initiative will be presented to that group in the fall and, subsequently, it also will be made available to any other interested parties. It is expected that a more

detailed report on the testing will be presented at the fall conference of IPANA and its affiliates.

Shift to Lower Sulfur Diesel Compounds Fuel Price, Distribution

In its *Short-Term Energy and Summer Fuels Outlook* released last month, the Energy Information Administration, DOE, reported that the transition to ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD) begins in the third quarter of 2006 with about 80 percent of the on-highway diesel fuel market expected to meet the new 15 parts per million (ppm) maximum sulfur limit this year, down from the current 500 ppm.

The EIA noted, "This conversion to ULSD is possibly the most difficult fuel specification transition the refining industry has had to make so far. The transition will result in increased production costs and distribution complexity.

"Specific average production cost increases are highly uncertain, with typical estimates of at least five cents per gallon. But during the transition period, diesel prices may be driven more by short-term supply/demand balances than by average production cost economics," the agency said.

Meanwhile, new truck sales have soared this year, with the OEMs reporting that their sales books for the year are full. The rush to purchase new trucks this year is to avoid the uncertainty associated with purchasing power units in 2007. Pre-'07 engines would be able to run on both ULSD and 500 ppm diesel whereas '07 engines – which are mandated by Federal law to emit lower emissions – must run on USLD only.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 3-7

UN COE on Transport of Dangerous Goods
29th Session
Geneva, Switzerland

July 16-18

International Conference on Industrial Packaging
San Francisco, CA

September 4

Labor Day

September 13-15

National Association of Chemical Distributors
OPSEM 2006
Indianapolis, IN

September 17-19

Petroleum Packaging Council
2006 Fall Meeting
Bonita Springs, FL

September 23*

Rosh Hashanah

September 25-27

Chemical Packaging Committee
Full & Sub-Committee meetings
Alexandria, VA

October 2*

Yom Kippur

October 15-17**

Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America
2006 Fall Conference
TBD

November 7

Election Day

November 15-17

Dangerous Goods Advisory Council
35th Annual Meeting
Carlsbad, CA

* These observances begin at sundown the previous evening.

** Tentative dates for the event listed.

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1101 14th Street, NW, Suite 1001, Washington, DC 20005*