

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **CORRUGATED INDUSTRY MOVES AHEAD TO ESTABLISH RECYCLABILITY STANDARDS FOR WAX REPLACEMENT MATERIALS**

WASHINGTON, DC and ROLLING MEADOWS, IL (February 1, 2005) – The American Forest & Paper Association and the Fibre Box Association are pleased to announce the release of a draft, voluntary standard to certify that corrugated board or boxes treated to improve performance in the presence of water, or water vapor, are repulpable and recyclable.

The draft document, released for public comment today, is the product of a joint committee that included box manufacturers, paper mill operators and recycled fiber users. The committee considered the present state of supply chain issues, including retailer calls for the elimination of non-recyclable (waxed) containers, and the impacts on the collection and use of treated corrugated in mill systems.

The joint committee's work was coordinated by the Corrugated Packaging Alliance (CPA). Dwight Schmidt, executive director, said, "traditionally, boxes used in moist or wet applications are coated with non-recyclable wax. Striving to meet the needs of retailers and others throughout the supply chain, the corrugated industry has conducted extensive research and development of recyclable, alternative materials

-more-

## **NEWS RELEASE**

-2-

that can provide the same protective qualities as wax. While a handful of alternatives are available today, and others are in development, a standard for establishing their repulpability and recyclability is imperative for these new materials to succeed in the marketplace.”

The new draft standard has two test protocol requirements: repulpability and recyclability. The repulpability requirements establish a predictable impact in mill repulping systems, and the recyclability requirements establish predictability in the performance of the recycled content paper products made from the treated material. The new draft standard does not call for treated board or boxes to be separated from the normal OCC recovery stream.

Treated material that passes both test protocols may be certified by the manufacturer with the symbol **shown here**.



The certification symbol is a modified version of the international “Corrugated Recycles” symbol, endorsed by the International Corrugated Case Association (ICCA) for reliable identification of recyclable materials. Testing may be done at a company's own lab or at a qualified third-party lab. The entire draft standard and a list of qualified testing facilities may be viewed at <http://cpa.corrugated.org/info/WaxStandard.pdf> and at [http://cpa.corrugated.org/info/WaxStandard\\_LabsRunningProtocol.htm](http://cpa.corrugated.org/info/WaxStandard_LabsRunningProtocol.htm).

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments or attend a forum to discuss the standard and the testing protocol. Written comments should be directed to Hal Tanner, HT Consulting Services, 75 Duck Pond Place, Georgetown, SC 29440. The final deadline for the

-more-



## **NEWS RELEASE**

-3-

submission of written comments is April 1, 2005. The forum will be held at the O'Hare Doubletree Hotel in Chicago on March 21, 2005, at 1 p.m. Members of the committee that developed the standard will be on hand for the discussion. While the comment deadline is after the forum, anyone who would like to have their input considered and discussed at the forum should submit comments prior to March 16, 2005.

**The Corrugated Packaging Alliance** ([www.corrugated.org](http://www.corrugated.org)) is a corrugated industry initiative jointly sponsored by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) ([www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org)) and the Fibre Box Association (FBA) ([www.fibrebox.org](http://www.fibrebox.org)). Its mission is to foster growth and profitability of corrugated in applications where it can be demonstrated, based on credible and persuasive evidence, that corrugated should be the packaging material of choice; and to provide a coordinated industry focus that effectively acts on industry matters that cannot be accomplished by individual members.

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