



## **FIBRE BOX ASSOCIATION**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **AF&PA/FBA COMMITTEE COMPLETES 18-MONTH REVIEW, REVISIONS TO RECYCLABILITY PROTOCOL FOR WAX ALTERNATIVES**

ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL (December 19, 2007) -- The Corrugated Packaging Alliance ad hoc Moisture Barrier Recyclability Standard Committee, co-sponsored by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) and the Fibre Box Association (FBA), has completed a review of its repulpability and recyclability testing protocol for corrugated board treated with wax alternatives, as specified in the Voluntary Standard originally released in late 2005. Taking user and stakeholder input into account after 18 months of protocol review and implementation, minor revisions were made to the protocol, which can be seen at

<http://www.corrugated.org/Upload/Files/WaxAlternativesStandard.pdf>. Changes include:

- Queries for more information are now directed only to the FBA (847-364-9600, [www.fibrebox.org](http://www.fibrebox.org)).
- Part 1 Test Method, Repulpability now states "the pulped material is separated in a screen with 0.010-inch *or smaller* slots to determine fiber recovery as a percentage of the amount of fiber charged."

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- Part 2 Test Method, Recyclability, now allows for each pulped material to be "passed through a pressure screen equipped with a basket of 0.062 inch holes, the same screen *or a similar screen* equipped with a basket with 0.010 inch slots and a reverse centrifugal separator under conditions specified in the procedure."
- Part 3 Performance Levels, Product requirements are satisfied if four conditions are met; the third condition now states that *all test results are to be reported in English units.*
- Appendix A, Repulpability Test Procedure now specifies in Specimen Testing (#3) to place the sample in 1500 ml. water at temperatures ranging from 125 degrees F  $\pm$  10 degrees F (52 degrees C  $\pm$  5 degrees C). *The Celsius tolerance has been adjusted from  $\pm$  3 degrees.*
- Appendix B Recyclability Test Procedure, #3 now specifies the tester can use "selected sample materials of *any convenient size, but no smaller than 1 x 1 inch square.*"
- Appendix C Test Report - Treatment/Product Information now asks for "*Actual dry lbs. of treatment weight per 1,000 sq. ft. of combined board of the sample tested,*" and for "*Calculated dry lbs. of treatment weight per lb. of fiber per MSF.*"
- On Substrate and Treatment Details, under Treatments, the form now requires the submitter to show "*dry lbs./MSF for each treatment.*"
- It also asks the submitter to "*show calculations of actual dry lbs. of treatment weight per pound of fiber per MSF of each treated component, and actual dry lbs. of treatment weight per MSF of combined board.*" The request for "*Mill source, if available*" has been deleted.
- The Test Report: Handsheet Formation and Product Performance page has added, under product performance control Slide Angle T-915, space for additional handsheets and test data.
- It now specifies *lbf/inch* for the Short Span Compression (STFI) T-826 and *lbs/inch<sup>2</sup>* for Burst Strength T-403.

Dwight Schmidt, president of the Fibre Box Association, explains, "The revisions reflect input from several sources aiming to make testing directions more clear and specific. Overall the protocol has been well received with no major issues and serves as a useful tool in evaluating wax alternatives for their potential repulpability and recyclability, properties that retailers and other high-volume end-users or generators of OCC have long demanded. The voluntary standard offers a realistic, third-party-verified way to ensure that a product claimed as recyclable has passed rigorous industry testing standards. This is becoming more important as numerous retailers begin to implement sustainable packaging evaluation tools."

Products that have passed the protocol and filed required paperwork with the FBA are authorized to carry the Corrugated Recycles logo (below) indicating recyclability. For more information, please call the Fibre Box Association at (847) 364-9600.

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Corrugated Recycles Logo for certified wax alternatives