

Supply Chain

Spring 2012

Keeping out the Cold

New Shipper Built to Withstand
Weather Extremes, p. 17



HDMA's Revised Bar Coding Guidelines

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EPS Recycling Rates Expand

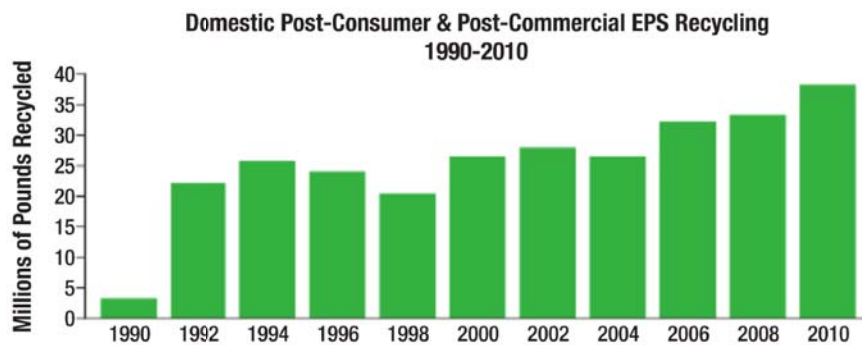
A report shows increases in recycling rates for the EPS industry.

More than 71 million pounds of expanded polystyrene were recycled in 2010, according to the recently released 2010 EPS Recycling Rate Report conducted by the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers (AFPR). The figure represents an increase of 3.5 million pounds over the 19.5% recycling rate in 2008. AFPR releases recycling rates every 2 years.

The report shows that 28% of all post-consumer and post-commercial EPS was recycled in 2010, marking the highest post-consumer and post-commercial recycling rate for the EPS industry since AFPR began reporting recycling rates in 1990.

ACH Foam Technologies, an EPS manufacturer, recycled 4 million pounds of EPS in 2010. "Considering that EPS is 98% air, this is a huge volume of material," said Todd Huempfer, vice president of operations for ACH Foam Technologies, in a press release.

ACH employs a closed loop manu-



Source: Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers

facturing model in the production of its EPS products. ACH manufactures EPS for packaging, construction, and OEM applications in eight plants across the United States.

"We have taken an holistic approach to servicing our customers by not only offering our recycling capabilities but also serving as a valuable recycling resource. We provide them with information about how to locate a large volume recycler when we are not able

to accommodate their needs," added Erich Brandt, Senior VP Sales & Marketing. "In addition, ACH Foam also provides training and resources to encourage our customers to set up their own collection process and will connect them with EPS recycling equipment manufacturers."

ACH Foam Technologies has been following AFPR's sustainable packaging program providing a step-by-step tool kit containing recycling resources.

Pharma Programs

The Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers (AFPR) offers a comprehensive sustainable packaging program that includes a step-by-step tool kit containing recycling resources. Information for packaging and OEM customers about how to set up their own recycling program is included.

The AFPR program has helped sanofi pasteur with its own EPS recycling programs. According to Bill Tarabek, director, U.S. distribution for sanofi pasteur, the Lyon, France-based

vaccines division of the Sanofi-Aventis Group: "EPS is not environmentally unfriendly—it's just the opposite. Unlike other material such as paper, EPS does not degrade and will not leach any substances into groundwater, nor will it form harmful gases," he adds.

"So although EPS can be safely disposed in today's landfills, sanofi pasteur developed a Return and Recycle Program for our customers who prefer to recycle," continues Tarabek. Since January 2008, sanofi pasteur has offered

its U.S. customers a prepaid mail-back recycling program that works through its partnership with AFPR.

Sanofi pasteur's customers—physician's offices, hospitals, and healthcare providers—who receive EPS shippers containing their medical supplies, are provided with tape strips and a recyclable shipping label. They empty the EPS container, tape the lid closed, apply the label to the container, and give it to their courier for shipment to a recycler.

(See the sidebar for a pharma company using it, too.) ACH Foam grinds its EPS scrap at all of its plants. The ground scrap then goes into a densifier to be compressed to ease shipping; it is later stacked on pallets for shipping to a national recycler.

ACH Foam's plants also accept smaller quantities of post-consumer EPS packaging dropped off from any clean (non-food contaminated) source. Those who don't have access to one of ACH Foam's plant drop-off sites can mail items back to ACH.

For more information about the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers or to download the 2010 Recycling Rate Report visit www.epspackaging.org. For more information on ACH Foam Technologies, visit www.achfoam.com. **SC**



IZUSEK/STOCKPHOTO.COM

Lean and Clean

ACH Foam Technologies claims that the manufacturing process for EPS is very clean. According to the company, the original polystyrene beads are expanded with the use of steam. The pentane-loaded bead is exposed to pressurized steam that causes the polystyrene to expand and mold into the desired shape and density needed. Manufacturing EPS does not involve the use of ozone depleting CFCs, HFCs, or HCFCs. The final product is a moisture resistant closed-cell structure that is comprised of 98 percent air. Despite its light weight, this plastic can possess a compressive strength of up to 60 psi.

ACH Foam calls EPS "one of the most efficient packaging and insulating materials." The use of EPS packaging offsets millions of gallons of gas and emissions (EPS weighs half as much as comparable coated paperboard products), and is the most protective of the products being shipped, which reduces waste due to product breakage in transit. EPS also has superior insulating qualities, which protect perishables during transit.

The advertisement for ATL Security Label Systems features a dark background. On the left, there is a close-up photograph of a security label being applied to a surface. The label is embossed with the word "SECURE" in a bold, sans-serif font. Above the label, the ATL logo is displayed, consisting of the letters "ATL" in a large, white, bold font, with a white crosshair symbol overlaid on the "A". Below the logo, the text "SECURITY LABEL SYSTEMS" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner of the advertisement, the phone number "800 | 444-5144" and the website "www.atlco.com" are listed in white. Below this, a line of text reads "Please contact us for a FREE engineering consultation." in a smaller, italicized white font.

Secure Your Supply Chain Protect Your Brand

- Overt & Covert Security Labels
- Mass Serialization / Track & Trace
- Customized films available with hidden text, logos, or images
- Embedded words or images in inks using special printing technologies read with simple and cost efficient authentication tools
- Invisible Forensic Marking

FDA Registered cGMP Compliant to 21 CFR 210, 211 & 820