



# Steel Shipping Container Institute

# NEWS

**January - February 2005**

## **SSCI, RIPA Officials to Meet Under Auspices of Steel Drum Council**

Representatives of the Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI) and the Reuseable Industrial Packaging Association (RIPA) will meet March 10 in Washington to explore the reestablishment of the Steel Drum Council. Each association will be represented at the meeting by four members as well as Counsel and staff.

This is the first formal meeting of the two groups in a number of years. It is hoped that the meeting can result in SSCI and RIPA identifying several issues of common interest that can be cooperatively advanced.

## **SSCI Membership, TPC Meetings Set for April 10-12 in Florida**

The Steel Shipping Container Institute will conduct its annual meeting April 10-12 at the Sawgrass Marriott, Jacksonville, Florida. The meeting will be part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA)..

The SSCI's Technical Projects Committee and the Board of Directors also will conduct meetings in Jacksonville. A preliminary schedule of events, meeting registration forms, and information for making preferred hotel accommodations at the Marriott were circulated to SSCI members earlier this month. These materials also can be accessed at the SSCI's Web site at <http://steelcontainers.com>.

The deadline for making hotel reservations at the Sawgrass Marriott is March 11. Please act today to

protect your preferred hotel arrangements. Reservations may be made on line using the following Web address: [www.stayatmarriott.com/IndustrialPackagingAlliance/](http://www.stayatmarriott.com/IndustrialPackagingAlliance/)

Further details on the meeting, including guest speakers, will be provided in e-mail updates to be circulated in the coming weeks.

## **SSCI Members Join Cooperative Effort on Vibration Testing**

The Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI) and ASTM International's D10 task group are working cooperatively on a series of tests to determine the affects of the various types of vibration test procedures currently being discussed by the United Nations Sub-Committee (COE) on the Transport of Dangerous Goods for industrial packagings.

The tests are being conducted against a somewhat uncertain backdrop regarding vibration test proposals. At its December meeting, the UN COE voted to not continue to advance a vibration test proposal on its 2005-2006 program of work. This was decided on the basis of a tie vote on the question at the Geneva meeting. Meanwhile, proponents of vibration testing – including RIPA and the ICCR – tentatively have called a meeting in Paris in April under the auspices of the head of the French delegation to the UN COE. The purpose of this meeting is to explore the results of vibration testing to date, assess the views of proponents concerning the idea of advancing a proposal at the UN, and determine the next steps for such a plan.

The cooperative ASTM D10/SSCI testing will be

conducted using ASTM task group D 4919; *Standard Guide for Testing Hazardous Materials Packaging*. The testing will involve two steel drum design types (a 0.8/0.8/0.8 and a 1.0/0.9/1.0). Moreover, the testing will be conducted by four labs that are all DOT-approved and associated with ASTM. The labs are: TEN-E Packaging Services and DDL in Minnesota; Gaynes Laboratory in Illinois, and the Michigan State University School of Packaging Lab in Michigan. To the extent possible, SSCI representatives will be observing the testing at all four labs.

The three test procedures that will be evaluated are: (1) Repetitive shock vibration based on ASTM D 999 Method A1: (similar to 49 CFR 178.608); (2) random vibration based on ASTM D 4728 and ASTM D 4169-04: truck profile and assurance level II (package unrestrained); and, (3) random vibration based on ISO 13355 – 2003 (package unrestrained).

The goal is to have preliminary data from the testing available for the ASTM D10 meeting in April.

Moreover, the SSCI's meeting in Jacksonville is also that month and it is hoped that the preliminary data can be shared with SSCI members at that meeting, as well.

**ANSI Set to Audit SSCI  
on Its MH-2 Standards Work**

Representatives from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) will be conducting an audit of the SSCI's activities associated with the 2004 renewal of the ANSI MH-2 standard related to steel drums and pails. SSCI serves as the Secretariat for this standard.

Last year, the 1997 standard was revised. The 2004 standard also incorporates and redesignates a 1998 supplement that was published as ANSI MH-2a.

Copies of the revised 2004 ANSI MH-2 standard can be purchased from the SSCI.

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