



Shipping Container Institute

NEWS

May – June 2008

SSCI NEWS

Dergentis, Beardsley, Lind Elected to SSCI Leadership

At their recent general membership meeting in Marco Island, Florida, members of the Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI) unanimously elected a slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee to lead the association in 2008-2009.

John Dergentis, Vice President/General Manager-East, Industrial Packaging & Services, N.A., Greif Packaging LLC, was elected SSCI chairman, succeeding Doug Brooks, who has retired. Earnest C. Beardsley, Chairman/CEO, North Coast Container Corp., was re-elected secretary and Chris Lind, Director, Technical Sales, Mauser Corp., was re-elected Treasurer.

Other manufacturer representatives serving on the Board are: Monica Allen – Ennis Containers, Inc.; Leonard H. Berenfield – Berenfield Containers, Inc.; Robert C. Bradford – General Steel Drum Corp.; Brian T. Meyer – Meyer Steel Drum, Inc.; Christopher Nelson – Cleveland Steel Container Corporation; Louis Pileggi – Chicago Steel Container Corp.; and, Kyle R. Stavig – Myers Container LLC.

Joseph Grebe, Director - Product, Technical and Regulatory Support, Delaware GPW, at Greif, remains at chairman of the SSCI's Technical Project Committee.

SSCI Honors Cutt, Trilla As Honorary Life Members

During ceremonies at the recent 2008 meeting of the Industrial Packaging Alliance and its affiliated organizations, the Steel Shipping Container Institute

(SSCI) honored two stalwarts of steel drum manufacturing who have recently left the industry. The SSCI bestows this honor in recognition of a recipient's long and meritorious service to the industry upon his or her retirement from active business.

Honored for their long commitment to the SSCI and the steel drum manufacturing industry were John W. Cutt, Chief Executive Officer of IMACC Corporation, and Lester Trilla, formerly president of Trilla Steel Drum. Mr. Cutt departed the industry upon the sale of his firm's steel drum business to Myers Container LLC last fall. Mr. Trilla left active involvement in the industry last winter upon the sale of his firm to Greif, Inc.

In making the presentation, SSCI Chairman Doug Brooks noted that between the two of them, Messrs. Cutt and Trilla had over ninety years of service in the new steel drum manufacturing industry. Mr. Cutt's involvement in the industrial packaging industry dates to 1959 when he joined Myers Drum Company in Los Angeles, a firm that was subsequently acquired by Kaiser Steel in 1968. He served as general manager of the Kaiser steel drum division until 1984 when he and three partners negotiated a leveraged buy-out of the company which they named IMACC Corporation. He headed IMACC from that time until the recent sale of the firm's steel drum-related assets to the Stavig brothers, who operate as Myers Container LLC. Mr. Cutt remains the head of IMACC Corporation which operates an IBC reconditioning facility in Georgia.

Mr. Trilla, meanwhile, Chairman Brooks observed, joined the family reconditioning business in the 1960s. In 1969, Trilla began manufacturing new steel drums at its plant on Chicago's south side and focused exclusively on new drums after the sale of its reconditioning assets in 1976. Lester took over leadership of the firm

following the death of his father, Lester, Sr., in 1977. Mr. Trilla's involvement in the SSCI dates almost 40 years and he has the distinction of having been, to date, the youngest Board member ever at the Institute. He remained on the Board for more than 35 years and is a former chairman. Within SSCI, Mr. Trilla was instrumental in the creation of the International Confederation of Drum Manufacturers (ICDM), the international voice of new steel drum manufacturers at the UN and on other international platforms. He also served as a long-time SSCI liaison to ICDM, attending UN meetings on dangerous goods transportation for many years.

SSCI Publishes 2003-2006 Steel Drum Production

The Steel Shipping Container Institute's (SSCI) Board of Directors recently authorized the release of steel drum production data for the years 2003 through 2006. The survey includes aggregate tight head and open head drum production for the years indicated. The survey was sent last summer to all manufacturer members of record at the SSCI with the request that they provide production data for tight head and open head 55-gallon steel drums for 2006. The inquiry also sought data for the prior three years (back to 2003) to provide perspective for the 2006 data.

Sometime in the next several months steel drum manufacturer members will be contacted to obtain 2007 production data that will be added to the earlier report and published as an annual compilation with a base of 2003.

While there have been changes in the membership of SSCI in the last year, the production data for firms that were acquired are included for the periods indicated before their sale. Moreover, the report does NOT include data from steel drum manufacturers who may have been members of SSCI at any time from 2003 through 2006 who were NOT members when the recent data request was made. Hence, the data, as presented, is consistent for the 11 steel drum manufacturing firms that have been members throughout the period of the survey.

The report previously was circulated to all SSCI members. However, if you require a copy, please contact the SSCI office in Washington office at 202-408-1900.

SSCI Board Approves Two-Year Plan to Promote Steel Drums and Pails

The Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI) Board of Directors has retained the services of the Potomac Communications Group (PCG) to work with the association in developing and implementing a marketing/public relations program focused on the virtues of steel drums and pails as the industrial packaging of choice. The Board has committed a considerable amount of its long-term operating reserve over a two-year period to fund the program.

Once PCG, working with a small SSCI advisory panel and staff, completes initial survey and analysis work, it will present the specifics for a comprehensive strategy aimed at raising awareness of the safety and sustainability attributes associated with steel packaging. The Institute intends to engage other groups, such as the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), in its endeavor seeking both in-kind and financial support.

SSCI Official Representatives recently have been contacted by PCG staff in connection with their initial data-gathering activities. The agency also recently circulated to SSCI members a brief on-line survey that members are encouraged to complete as soon as possible.

In the face of the current historically high raw materials costs and the economic uncertainty battering the economy, it is vital that the steel drum industry raise its visibility as customers face demands from management to lower packaging costs. New steel drums and pails have a great story to tell and the initiative recently authorized by the Board is aimed at getting it out. Look for further details on this effort in the weeks ahead.

China Sets September 6 as Starting Date for 2009 International Conference

While details are scarce, the Steel Shipping Container Institute has been alerted that the opening date for the 2nd triennial International Conference on Industrial Packaging (ICIP) in Beijing will be Sunday, September 6, 2009. The SSCI's International Confederation of Drum Manufacturers (ICDM) partner, the Association of Asia-Oceanic Steel Drum Manufacturers (AOSD), provided details of a June 3 meeting held at the China Packaging Federation in Beijing at which arrangements for this event were

clarified. The SSCI, AOSD, and the European Association of Steel Drum Manufacturers, comprise the membership of ICDM which has agreed to co-sponsor this event.

It is expected that the initial brochure containing complete details on the conference and venue in China that is being coordinated by the China Packaging Federation will be circulated at the end of August, following the close of the 2008 Summer Olympics. SSCI staff will circulate this information as soon as it becomes available.

In the meantime, please mark your calendar now for that start date in China and think about combining your participation in this event with that long-delayed vacation to the Far East.

IPANA NEWS

IPANA Sets Fall Conference for October 26-28 in D.C.

The Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America and its four independent affiliated packaging organizations will conduct their 2008 Fall Conference on October 26-28 at The Westin City Center Hotel, Washington, D.C. Arrangements for the program and speakers at this event are currently being finalized.

Look for registration information and further details in your e-mail inbox soon.

Harding Re-elected IPANA Chairman; Kirkland Tapped as Treasurer

The Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA) has re-elected Robert A. Harding, Jr., Vice President, IBC North America, Inc., as chairman of the Board of Directors for 2008-2009. Mr. Harding, the Rigid Intermediate Bulk Container Association's (RIBCA) representative to IPANA, also served as chairman the last two years.

Joining Mr. Harding in IPANA's leadership are: Leonard H. Berenfield – President/CEO, Berenfield Containers, Inc., IPANA Vice Chairman representing the International Fibre Drum Institute (IFDI); Jerry Geyer – Product Management & Development Director, Greif Packaging LLC, IPANA Secretary representing the Plastic Drum Institute (PDI); Deborah Kirkland –

Vice President, Sales, Self Industries, Inc., IPANA Treasurer representing Associate Members; and, Kyle R. Stavig – Chief Executive Officer, Myers Container LLC, representing the Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI).

IPANA's four independent industrial packaging organizations each designate a representative to serve their interests on the Alliance Board. The Associate Member representative on the Board is elected each year from among his or her peers.

PDI Honors Chuck Garrison For Fifty Years of Service

The Plastic Drum Institute (PDI) recently honored Chuck Garrison, a lifer in the industrial packaging industry, for his half-century of service. PDI President Jerry Geyer made the presentation to Chuck at the recent Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America (IPANA) 2008 Annual Meeting in Marco Island, Florida.

Mr. Garrison started his career in the industrial packaging business before creating a platform for plastic drum manufacturers with the creation of the Plastic Drum Institute. In recent years, Chuck has served as PDI's executive director and played a key role in the deliberations that brought about formation of IPANA.

In recognizing Chuck's long-time contributions to the plastic drum industry, Mr. Geyer noted that the PDI board had determined last Fall to honor Chuck at the 2008 Annual Meeting for his life's work. He observed that the award almost had to be presented posthumously as a consequence of Chuck's heart-related illness last fall. Mr. Geyer expressed obvious relief and pleasure that he could make the presentation to Chuck himself.

REGULATORY NEWS

Industry, PHMSA Focus on Testing

Representatives of bulk and non-bulk packaging manufacturers, third-party laboratory representatives, and PHMSA staff held a meeting June 25 to explore ways in which to address the apparent "disconnect" between the agency's design type packaging testing conducted at Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, and its incident reporting data on packaging arising in the day-to-day transport environment.

This informal gathering, held at PHMSA's headquarters under the auspices of the Reusable Industrial Packaging Association, provided industry and regulatory agency representatives the opportunity to constructively discuss ways in which to assess and, possibly, narrow the gap between reported packaging design test failures evidenced at the U.S. Army's Logistics Support Activity Packaging, Storage, and Containerization Center (LOGSA) and the relative dearth of reports of packaging failures in transportation.

Regarding the meeting, a senior PHMSA official noted its goal is consistent with the agency's interest in sitting down with any constituent group to discuss issues of common concern as they relate to packaging safety. Such discussions, the official observed, must also recognize the operational and political realities associated with them. Industry officials noted that the agency and the industrial packaging industry share a common goal of providing the safest possible package for use in transporting a broad range of products and that the purpose of this meeting is to further advance that effort.

There was a general consensus among participants that in considering the contrasts between Tobyhanna and incident reporting data a focus on comparative analysis should be avoided in favor of looking at the root cause of packaging failures. It was observed that there are a variety of reasons why design type testing at a manufacturer's, reconditioner's, or third party's facility may result in a different outcome than that experienced at Tobyhanna. Such variables as differing testing equipment (vibration tables, for example) and the ramp-up time and pressure in the hydrostatic testing were mentioned. Also, it was noted that while the regulations specify the drop height for packaging testing, how to do the drop is not specified. Another area of difference has to do with closure and assembly instructions and the challenges evident in achieving consistency in closing.

The groups concluded that the best means of making real progress in closing the gap between the Tobyhanna testing experience and reported incident data is to focus on one or two areas where incremental changes would translate into meaningful outcomes advancing packaging safety. One of these areas involves a greater commitment to assuring compliance with closure and assembly instructions and a second deals with the possibility of greater standardization in packaging design type testing by manufacturers, reconditioners, third-party labs, and Tobyhanna.

Revisions to PHMSA-Mandated Security Plans Requested

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT, has published a notice indicating that the agency this fall likely will institute a proposed rulemaking to make changes in the current scope of its security plan requirements.

Two industry groups have petitioned PHMSA to amend the security plan regulations to create a distinction between hazardous materials that present a significant security risk while in transit and the vast majority of hazardous materials that pose no significant security risk during transportation.

Due to the training requirements of the HMR, industrial packaging manufacturers are required to have a security plan and to conduct security training. PHMSA inspectors inquire about the plan when they visit plants as part of their regulatory responsibility. It is expected that the rulemaking contemplated by PHMSA may provide some relief from security plans and training for industrial packaging manufacturers. However, until such time, all firms that are mandated to conduct HM awareness training should also develop a security plan and conduct security awareness training.

PHMSA provides a CD/DVD that can be utilized to fulfill the security awareness training requirement.

PHMSA Issues Revised HM Fee Schedule

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT, has issued final rules under HM-208G, proposing to increase hazardous materials registration fees from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for FY2009. The increase will not apply to those registrants who qualify for a reduced fee as a small business or not-for-profit organization.

In announcing the proposed fee structure, PHMSA said the higher fees are necessary to fund the \$23.8 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants program in FY2009.

CDC Report Cites Higher Risk of Hispanic Workers Injury, Death

A recent article published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) explores the elevated risks for injury and death that Hispanic workers experience in comparison to other workers. Data demonstrate that rates of work-related injury and death among Hispanic workers exceed those for all U.S. workers, non-Hispanic white workers, and non-Hispanic black workers.

The article also notes that foreign born workers are at especially high risk, and a large proportion of deaths occur in the construction industry.

Contributors to the high risk of injury death for Hispanic workers include work in riskier jobs, inadequate control of recognized safety hazards, and inadequate training and supervision of workers, often exacerbated by different languages and literacy levels of Hispanic workers.

For more information on the report, *Work-Related Injury Deaths Among Hispanics - United States, 1992--2006*, visit:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5722a1.htm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 17 – 19

Petroleum Packaging Council
 Fall Meeting
 Nashville, TN

SEPTEMBER 10 – 12

National Association of Chemical Distributors
 OPSEM 2008
 Orlando, Florida

OCTOBER 6 – 8

Chemical Packaging Committee
 Full- and Sub-Committee Meetings
 Alexandria, Virginia

OCTOBER 22 – 25

Reusable Industrial Packaging Association
 67th Annual Conference
 Tucson, Arizona

OCTOBER 26 – 28

Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America
 Fall Conference
 Washington, D.C.

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