

Recommendations BABM & comeos

SECONDARY & TERTIARY PACKAGING

I NTRODUCTION

This document presents recommendations for secondary and tertiary (transport) packaging with the objective of :

- reducing the integral logistical chain costs from producer to consumer;
- making the handling of goods more efficient in points of sales and distribution centres;
- contributing to the safety and well-being of company employees;
- optimising the sorting and treatment of waste in points of sales and distribution centres;
- assuring that goods are sufficiently protected during transport.

This document has been made by the members of COMEOS (*Belgian Federation of Distributors*) in common concertation with their suppliers - members of BABM (*Belgilux Association of Branded Goods Manufacturers*) - in the frame of ECR Belgium.

B ASIC PRINCIPLES

The above-mentioned objectives can be achieved by:

- leaving out all redundant packaging materials;
- analysing the packaging in function of shape, weight and nature of the contents (degree of fragility);
- choosing an optimal surface/contents relation;
- adapting the secondary/tertiary packaging in function of pallet dimensions and the necessary protection of goods;
- designing the packaging in such a way that the opening and handling can be easily done;
- using the commercial aspect of packaging as product support;
- enlarging, if possible, the number of multiple use, standardised packagings and single use secondary/tertiary packaging having a high degree of recyclability.

T ECHNICAL DIRECTIVES

Actions should be taken in view of decreasing the ecological repercussion of packaging waste, without affecting the quality of the products.

It is recommended to use as much as possible :

- materials containing recycled substances (e.g. cardboard, plastic,...);
- reusable and/or totally recyclable secondary/tertiary packaging;
- paper adhesive tape;
- transparent and unprinted PE-foil for facilitating its subsequent treatment;
- a maximum of two (detached) parts for secondary/tertiary packaging;
- a tearable shrink-wrap (making it possible to prick the clingfilm with a finger and to tear it open) in order to have a quick opening of transport packaging;
- a properly functioning perforation in the shrink-wrap packaging (stretch). These perforations will be preferably placed on the upper side of the packaging;
- recycled materials, which means that cardboard (or paper) transport packaging consists solely of recycled brown cardboard or paper;
- boxes printed and/or coded by means of inkjet printers instead of self-adhesive labels;
- a tip of glue on the boxes instead of synthetic adhesive tape;
- uniformity in secondary/tertiary packaging, making extra instructions on the packaging redundant.

The following is suggested as well :

- if it is necessary to use PE labels, their format has to be as small as possible;
- indicate the article name on the long side as well as on the short side of the article;
- limit as much as possible the volume of packaging material to be removed;
- enable a quick flattening of trays and boxes;

- limit the gluing strength for trays and boxes. The use of an efficient perforation on the right place is to be preferred;
- include auxiliary elements in the adhesive tape, such as a perforation, a strip of paper at the end of the tape or a glue-free strip at the outside of the tape, in order to enable a quick opening of the boxes, etc.

If there are no trays, it is recommended :

- to check whether the goods can be delivered without foil (without affecting their stability);
- to take into account the commercial outlook of the packaging. If possible, use a tray that is not too high and that has a tear-off strip in the front.

PRACTICES TO BE AVOIDED

- presence of heavy metals (e.g. in varnish,...);
- sharp edges (edges in cardboard often have the effect of a saw);
- multi-material substances that are hard to assort or to be recycled;
- excessive and unnecessary use of promotional printings and use of white backgrounds (in bleached cardboard) for environmental and financial reasons;
- the use of staples or hard synthetic strips as fastening of cardboard boxes and trays;
- the use of glues and other auxiliary substances that make the subsequent treatment of packaging more difficult;
- secondary/tertiary packaging (including goods) weighing more than 15 kg;
- the use of coating or material layers that make the subsequent treatment more difficult (such as wax, paraffin, bitumen, oil or water resistant coatings), unless they are absolutely indispensable for the protection of the product; it

is the intention to facilitate two activities in particular:

- the opening of the secondary/tertiary packaging and the filling of the shelves out from the secondary/tertiary packaging;
- the removal and treatment of the remaining secondary/tertiary packaging.

STANDARDISATION OF PACKAGING

Standardisation of packaging is of great importance for an efficient transport of the product from the producer via the distribution centre to the point of sale (integral supply chain approach).

When developing new packaging, collomodular dimensions are to be preferred.

The system is derived from the packaging module 600 x 400.

These collomodular dimensions are :

600 x 400	600 x 200	600 x 100	
400 x 300	400 x 200	400 x 150	400 x 100
300 x 200	300 x 100		
200 x 150	200 x 100		
150 x 100			

The tolerance is - 6% and + 0%.

When determining the collomodular dimensions the divergence in minus of 4 % will be taken as a standard, amongst other things to avoid that the packaging will bulge and taking into account the dimensions of the basis pallet.

The collomodular approach has no height dimensions. It can be set that the article height should not deviate substantially from the article width. The height does preferably not exceed 400 mm.

Approved by the ECR Belgium Executive Board on 17/10/2006.

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