

South African Industrial Container Reconditioners Association



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 1 : October 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings to all our Members,

This year (2020) has been an unprecedented challenge for our country and indeed for the global community, as the world grapples with COVID-19 (coronavirus) and its far-reaching implications that have resulted in worldwide social, humanitarian, and economic repercussions. The South African economy has been negatively impacted, with many families affected by job losses, the closure of struggling small businesses and certain industries implementing significant retrenchment rescue measures. In our collective response as a country, the South African Government took decisive actions to minimize the infection spread rates which included a level 5 national lockdown early in the year. In late September, the country noted an improved recovery rate and has now moved to a level 1 lockdown. This is a welcomed positive improvement and we celebrate this achievement as a country, and acknowledge with appreciation, the dedication and hard work of the many doctors and nurses who continue to serve our citizens with such commitment. However, we sadly also remember those who have lost their lives to this pandemic and my heartfelt condolences to those of you who may have lost a loved one.

One of the objectives of SAICRA is to ensure that our Members conduct their business in a manner that protects the environment and the health and safety of our workers and the broader community. To this end, SAICRA has kept our Members abreast of the various occupational health and safety regulations and directives that have been issued to businesses by the Government e.g. the Department of Employment and Labour, the Department of Health, etc., as part of the country's national response to effectively managing the COVID-19 pandemic. SAICRA further assisted our Members by conducting training on the COVID-19 Workplace Preparedness and Risk Assessment in early June.

The new SAICRA website was also launched in August and includes links to resources and information that can assist our Members and keep them informed of latest developments.

I also want to thank the Board for their efforts thus far and the work done during the year and especially congratulate Christopher Alagappen who has been appointed as the *Vice-Chairperson*.

SAICRA BOARD 2020

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Steaphan Mac Donald | | Chairperson | |
| Christopher Alagappen | | Vice-Chairperson | |
| Arnand Moodley | Morgan Kristen | David Tatz | Ishmael Kunene |
| Khaya Qekani | Jaco Verwey | Godfrey Molapo | |

As the year seems to finally be speeding up to a close, we want to remind you of the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is scheduled for 24 November 2020. The meeting will be conducted online and more information on how to access the online AGM, will be sent to all Members.

I look forward to connecting with our Members at our upcoming 2020 Annual General Meeting.

- Steaphan Mac Donald (SAICRA Chairperson)

SAICRA is also proud to announce that we have launched the new SAICRA website in early August. You can visit our new website <http://www.saicra.co.za/> for more information.



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SAICRA MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

SAICRA met with the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Chemicals and Waste at their head office in Pretoria at the beginning of the year. The Chief Director and her staff were pleased to have met with us and have acknowledged the work of the Association and its members. The meeting discussed the Industry Waste Management Plan (IWMP), SANS 10406 auditing and training. The Directorate was pleased with the SANS 10406 audits and the tracking of Members compliance to their waste license and compliance obligations.

The Chief Director discussed the EPR Scheme for Industrial Containers and the need to determine the minimum requirements and operational criteria for an EPR scheme to operate; the general scheme structure and responsibilities; financial arrangements for an EPR scheme; the appropriate monitoring, reporting and evaluation criteria and EPR scheme performance reviews.



EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR) SCHEME

SAICRA attended an engagement session with the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries in the beginning of the year. The Minister voiced her concerns with regards to the challenge in the waste packaging industry in South Africa and the Department's requirements to address this issue. Further to this session, the Minister on 26 June 2020, made known, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008, her intention to consult and to make regulations regarding the extended producer responsibility as well as to require the producers of the identified products to implement specified extended responsibility measures.

This is perceived as good news for the Association and its Members, as it is the intention of this regulation to compensate Members for picking up and cleaning/disposing of the containers. This will require the EPR scheme to identify the costs and a model for collection and disbursement of funds.



COVID-19 TRAINING

The Department of Employment and Labour and the Department of Health issued directives on the COVID pandemic which required businesses to comply with the gazetted directives. SAICRA saw the need to assist its members and arranged for the COVID-19 training to be conducted in order to assist members in identifying COVID-19 related risks in their workplace and to address these risks by assessing them and implementing effective mitigation and monitoring measures to safeguard all workers and visitors.

The training was attended by 19 delegates that were thereafter provided with the COVID-19 Workplace Management Toolkit comprising of COVID-19 related:

- Workplace management policies
- Procedures
- Checklists
- Registers
- Work instructions



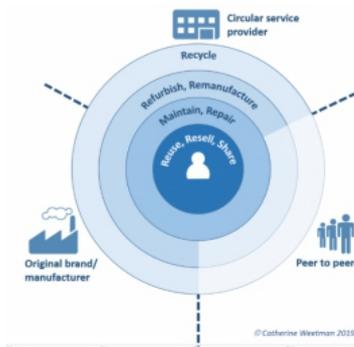
As per section 18 EPR measures to be implemented further includes:

- conduct internal audits and make these audit reports available to the Department;
- conduct internal biannual audits and make available reports to the external auditor;
- include the internal biannual audit findings in the annual audit report and submit this audit report to the Department within 30 days after finalisation of the audit report.

SAICRA is in the process of developing the EPR Scheme and costing model which will be communicated to our Members and submitted to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Chemicals and Waste.



Packaging Wraps Up the Circular Economy



Today, the idea of business sustainability is giving way to a sophisticated new approach to environmental management and value creation known as the circular economy. According to work done by McKinsey & Co. for the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, A circular economy is one that is

restorative and regenerative by design and aims to keep products, components and materials at their highest utility and value at all times.

In other words, rather than viewing the production of goods as a linear process from raw material extraction to disposal, a circular economy is a closed system that operates best when waste is reused and energy consumption is responsibly managed. Industrial packaging must be considered a key component of this effort.

Defining Circular Economy

Circular economy theory encompasses many of the traditional elements of sustainability, but its primary focus is on business activities and needs. Its proponents take great care to account for profitability as a key metric in every aspect of planning and implementation. According to the World Economic Forum, a new development model is needed to ensure-in a world that is expected to add more than 3 billion new middle-class consumers by 2030-that businesses find new ways to meet what is likely to be an unprecedented demand for goods and services. This assumption, along with deepening concerns about climate change and an expected long-term rise in commodity prices worldwide, suggests that now is the time for the global business community to rethink the linear approach to industrialization-sometimes referred to as the take-make-dispose economy-and replace it with an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design.

Packaging in Action

The most widely used industrial packagings are 55-gallon (210-liter) steel and plastic drums, and 275-gallon (1,000-liter) composite intermediate bulk containers. The International Confederation of Container Reconditioners estimates that annual production volumes for these three container types in Japan, Europe and North America alone, are about 120 million steel drums, 30 million plastic drums and nearly 16 million IBCs. Figures for other large volume industrialized economies such as China and India are unavailable, but ICCR believes a reasonable count would more than double the cited production volumes.

Today, there is a sophisticated global network for empty packaging management made up of private businesses that collect, transport, clean, refurbish and resell steel drums, plastic drums and composite intermediate bulk containers. With few exceptions, no matter where one goes in the world, a reconditioner is available to safely collect, clean and process empty industrial packaging for reuse.

Interestingly, this global system developed and thrived because the containers fit almost perfectly the criteria of an exemplary circular economy product. Take for example the venerable 55-gallon steel drum, which has been a staple of global industrial packaging since its invention in the early 1900s, and is appreciated the world over for safety, durability and reusability.

Made anywhere in the world, 55-gallon steel drums are uniform in shape, size and material. Except for a few small gaskets and the requisite linings and decorative coatings that together represent less than 2 percent of its total weight, steel drums are made entirely from carbon steel. Even after a drum has reached the end of its useful life, both the container and its closures can be recycled after cleaning.

“Steel drums retain residual value when empty because they can be cleaned and reused, often multiple times, for a wide range of products”, said RIPA Chairman Dan Burek. “And, when the drum can no longer be used for its original purpose, it and its constituent parts still have value as recyclable

materials. Because of their consistent design and manner of construction, empty industrial packagings are a kind of global currency in nearly all industrialized countries. Not only do the drums have value in the aftermarket, replacement parts like closures and gaskets can be readily purchased from local businesses” Burek continued.

As reported in the April 2014 issue of LubesN'Greases, an Ernst & Young study found that the manufacture and one-time use of a new open-head drum results in emissions of approximately 77.3 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent, whereas using a reconditioned open-head drum reduces carbon emissions by 60 percent to about 30.1 pounds. A similar comparison for tight head drums reveals an emissions reduction of about 36 percent.

The use of a reconditioned 275- or 330-gallon composite IBC with a steel pallet saves more than 67 percent of the emissions for newly manufactured IBCs of the same type. This translates into savings of over 180 pounds of greenhouse gases for every reconditioned 275-gallon IBC and over 218 pounds for each 330-gallon reconditioned IBC used in place of a new unit.

In a linear economy, packaging manufacturers can claim environmental benefits by reducing the amount of material used to produce a specific product. A steel drum manufacturer can use thinner steel to manufacture a drum, or a producer of plastic water bottles can reduce the amount of plastic used to manufacture the bottle. However, the lighter steel drum may only be capable of being reused for its original purpose one time after its initial round trip, after which it must be recycled. The plastic bottle almost certainly must be recycled after a single trip.

In a circular economy, manufacturers and product purchasers will be expected to examine the life-cycle of products and optimize their environmental value. Since manufacturers of steel drums know that a global return-and-reuse system exists for their product, they would be expected to produce a more robust drum made from thicker steel to facilitate many reuse cycles. Plastic bottle producers, on the other hand, may find that no effective collection and reuse system exists for their product in every market, so the most effective environmental solution for bottles sold in such places is raw material reduction in the production process, coupled with localized recycling.

Circling Back

It is important to acknowledge there are numerous and often significant barriers to full implementation of a circular economy. Products are frequently made from parts sourced globally, so geographic dispersion and transportation logistics present some obvious roadblocks to implementation. The design of some products is necessarily complex and, therefore, they may be difficult to break apart for efficient recycling. Reuse or remanufacture may not be a viable option for certain products or materials because of design or mandated safety requirements. Reused and remanufactured parts must have a customer base, and reverse logistics programs are complex and often costly. But these and related concerns should not deter efforts to move towards a circular economy.

The reuse of products and materials is growing exponentially. Packaging reuse-both consumer and industrial-is expected to expand as circular economy ideas take hold and businesses take advantage of emissions savings that accompany reuse programs. Materials like engine oils and cutting fluids that once were disposed of as waste after a single use now regularly are reprocessed and reused in appropriate industrial applications.

As businesses move away from the traditional take-make-dispose production model toward a circular economy, they will rely on efficient manufacturing systems, information technology and big data to create ever more efficient ways to save energy and conserve resources.

Source

Article title Packaging Wraps Up the Circular Economy - Lubes'N'Greases

Website title Lubes'N'Greases

URL: <https://www.lubesnagreases.com/magazine/packaging-wraps-up-the-circular-economy/>





Q&A: Tips for health and safety at the workplace in the context of COVID-19

What key measures to protect against COVID-19 should be undertaken in ALL workplaces?

Measures to prevent transmission of COVID-19 that apply to all workplaces and all people at the workplace include frequent hand-washing or disinfection with alcohol based hand sanitizer, respiratory hygiene such as covering coughs, physical distancing of at least 1 metre or more according to the national recommendations, wearing of masks where distancing is not possible, regular environmental cleaning and disinfection, and limiting unnecessary travel. Clear policies and messages, training, and education for staff and managers to increase awareness of COVID-19 are essential. The management of people with COVID-19 or their contacts is also critical e.g. requiring workers who are unwell or who develop symptoms to stay at home, self-isolate and contact a medical professional or the local COVID-19 information line for advice on testing and referral.

What should be taken into consideration when setting a physical distance at the workplace?

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends keeping a physical distance of at least 1 metre between each person in all settings, including in workplaces. In order to support compliance with national or local recommendations, implement physical distance guidelines in a way that is practical and feasible in the context of work tasks, and which is acceptable to both workers and employers. Stimulate workers to comply with physical distancing norms also at events outside the workplace and in the community.

Risk assessment and consultation between employers and workers is very important for setting up and implementing physical distancing measures at the workplace. This may require modification of workstations, changing the use of common spaces and transport vehicles, staggered work shifts, split teams and other measures to reduce social mixing at the workplace.

If physical distancing measures at the workplace are not feasible for specific work tasks, consider whether the work can be suspended, and if this is not possible, apply additional protective measures, such as the use of screens, facial guards, face masks, enhanced hand hygiene, ventilation and disinfection.

Physical distancing alone can't prevent COVID-19 transmission, it is important that it is combined with other public health measures, such as hand and respiratory hygiene, environmental clean-up and disinfection of commonly touched surfaces and objects, ventilation, wearing face masks and a policy of staying at home if unwell.

What are the rights, duties and responsibilities of employers?

Employers, workers, and their organizations should collaborate with health authorities to prevent and control COVID-19. Cooperation between management and workers and their representatives is essential for workplace-related prevention measures. International

labour standards on the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers in occupational safety and health should be fully respected.

Employers, in consultation with workers and their representatives, should plan and implement measures to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 at the workplace through engineering and administrative controls, and provide personal protective equipment and clothing according to the risk assessment. Such measures should not involve any expenditure on the part of the workers.

Special measures are needed to protect workers at higher risk of developing severe disease, such as those age 60 and over, or with underlying medical conditions, upon recommendation of the occupational health services. Workers in the informal economy, those in small enterprises, domestic and migrant workers should not be left behind in the protection of their health and safety at work and their livelihood.

There should be no social stigma or discrimination at the workplace for any reason, including access to information and protection from COVID-19, occupational health services and mental health and psychosocial support.

If COVID-19 is contracted through occupational exposure, it could be considered an occupational disease and, if so determined, should be reported and compensated according to the Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (COIDA).

What are the rights, duties and responsibilities of workers?

Workers are responsible to follow the measures for occupational safety and health and infection prevention and control established for their workplace, and to participate in training provided by the employer. Workers should report to their supervisor any situation which may present an imminent and serious danger to their life or health. Workers have the right to remove themselves from any work situation that they have reasonable justification to believe presents an imminent and serious danger to their life or health, and should be protected from any undue consequences as a result of exercising this right.

How can workplaces plan for the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19?

Workplaces should develop action plans to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 as part of the business continuity plan and according to the results of the risk assessments.

The action plan and preventive measures should be regularly monitored and updated. Workers and their representatives should be consulted and should participate in the development, monitoring and updating of the workplace COVID-19. It is very important to monitor the effectiveness of preventive measures, and the compliance of workers, visitors, customers, clients and sub-contractors with the measures.



**24 November 2020
SAICRA AGM**

**Annual General Meetings
Go Virtual**

Details to follow shortly

