



Special News Bulletin

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China: Operation Green Fence

On April 08, 2013 Chinas new President, Mr. Xi Jinping, announced the 'Operation Green Fence' program with which China wants to reduce the amount of poor quality waste coming from abroad. With this program China puts more efforts towards green development, which means in relation to recovered paper, the ports in China will enforce tougher quality checks.

In first statements from Recycling Associations, the new quality requirements were regarded as 'not unreasonable' and recyclables should be seen as a commodity and not as waste. However; recovered paper merchants who are not focusing their attention on quality requirements will certainly be out of business, as highlighted by the Recycling Association in the UK, which currently supplies 10% of Chinas requirements.

European recyclers are already reporting increased and tougher inspection procedures at Chinese ports, which are affecting shipments of secondary commodities. Any shipment that exceeds standards (allowance of 1.5% impurity) will result in the whole load of recovered paper being rejected. One European paper recycler reported, that the stricter scrutiny is adding considerable delays to shipment times. A Dutch Director at CVB Ecologistics informed that more than 100 containers of recovered paper are being held at the Port of Zhangjiaggang, where China's Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau (CIQ) has requested a 2nd round of inspections at the sellers expense, even though the transfer of ownership had already occurred.

US exporters are increasingly concerned as well about stepped-up supervisions of shipments to China. While many believe that the program is a temporary initiative, others believe that the country will continue to strengthen its' environmental regulations. The Green Fence Program was also a topic at this week's Annual Convention of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries in Orlando.

Corrugated packaging industry lowers carbon footprint

FEFCO is proud to announce that the packaging sector has reduced its carbon footprint by a further 4.8% over the past 3 years. This follows a cut of 11.7% from 2006 to 2008, as revealed by FEFCO and Cepi ContainerBoard (CCB) in the European Data Base for Corrugated Board Life Cycle Studies. The newest 2012 report is based on data both from the Corrugated and the Paper Industry for the period from 2009 to 2011. The average carbon footprint of corrugated packaging is now 746 kg/t, compared to 784 kg/t for the period 2006 – 2008.

The savings have been achieved through reductions in energy consumption and the industry's use of recycled materials for the production of new corrugated packaging, which rose from 82% in 2009 to 85% in 2012 across Europe.

The latest figures from FEFCO highlight the huge step the corrugated industry is taking to protect the environment, through extensive improvements in the manufacturing process.

Remark: In Newsletter No. 10 from Feb. 2013 WCO reported about the 'European Database for Corrugated Board Life Cycles' – www.cepi-containerboard.org/download.php

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