

Notes of a Meeting to discuss a Test Protocol for the Recyclability of Paper and Board Packaging

Held at Smurfit Kappa SSK on 16th May 2019 at 10.30 hrs

Present:

Michael Carroll Tesco, Natasha Cook Morrisons, Guy Lacey DS Smith, Denise Mathieson Tesco, Peter Seggie Smurfit Kappa, Mandy Kelly ACE, Will Mercer Coveris, Iain Fergusson Coop, Stuart Lendrum Iceland, Jon Clark BPIF Cartons, Tod Hunter RAP, Paul Wormald Mondi, Simon Walker UPM, Barry Read PITA, Simon Weston CPI.

Summary Notes:

Stuart Lendrum (SL) and Simon Weston (SW) opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked participants for attending and introduced the meeting.

CPI has agreed to create a test protocol for the recyclability of paper and board packaging for the UK on behalf of OPRL and wanted to take comment from stakeholders before it is finalised. SW reaffirmed that the CPI guidelines are aspirational and were conceived to create a more resource efficient paper recycling system. SL noted that there is clear pressure from government to create a binary marking system for consumer packaging. So, it was agreed that the challenge for the supply chain is to manage the gap between the aspirational guidelines and a binary decision tree and marking system.

SW introduced Barry Read (BR) who made a presentation to the meeting, describing the processes undertaken in manufacturing paper and the challenges posed by various sorts of non-fibrous contamination. (A copy of that presentation accompanies these notes).

There was a wide-ranging discussion both during and after the presentation. Peter Seggie commented that the current reprocessing infrastructure is designed to cope with non-paper contamination but will struggle increasingly as plastic and other non-fibrous content increases.

Jon Clark noted that it appeared that the UK was asking for different standards from other European countries. SL responded that the OPRL system will only be required to apply to the UK.

General discussion around the proposed testing procedure resulted in a view that the fibre yield from packaging should be considered of primary importance. BR stated that the test procedure itself would not deliver judgement on recyclability and that there needed to be a second phase of evaluative assessment. It was noted that there is growing interest in other European countries to develop a recyclability standard and he informed the meeting that a development of a European standard could take between 18-24 months, but a lesser standard (PAF) might be achievable in a shorter timeframe as a precursor to a full CEN standard.

Much discussion focussed upon how to bridge the gap between the CPI's aspirational guidelines and the need for binary pack marking, with Iain Fergusson suggesting that a modulated fee structure could be used as a bridge.

There followed discussion around issues specific to members in the room, in particular, Will Mercer raised the issue of UV printing and varnishes. BR remarked that some inks very damaging to graphic paper mills especially HP Indigo which is capable of closing mill operations because it cannot be removed by deinking.

The meeting agreed that this was a real opportunity for the supply chain to collaborate to create its own approval system, with a three-stage process comprising an initial self-certification phase for those

products that fit within the guidelines. Thereafter, products would be required to undergo the test protocol, with a modulated fee system to deal with harder to recycle packaging products. Michael Carroll stressed the need for this to be a consistent procedure and there was discussion around the availability of test houses in the UK. The general consensus was that the majority of packs should pass through the guidance phase, with only a minority needing to go for testing.

SW noted that the time frame was largely determined by OPRL's desire to update its labelling system and asked whether it would be better to try to coordinate with wider European desire to create a European standard. SL insisted that it was necessary to give UK industry a minimum 2-year lead in for technological and design reasons and it was necessary to push on with a UK based protocol. He acknowledged that there was unlikely to be an easy solution and that compromise would be necessary.

SW acknowledged that CPI members will continue to accept material that is outside the specifications described in the Recyclability Guidelines.

During the meeting the following actions were agreed:

Actions:

- CPI and Barry Read to complete and publish draft test protocol
- Stuart Lendrum to speak to WRAP and seek removal of the synopsis of the guidelines from their website, or at minimum, removal of the Red, Amber, Green decision table
- Simon Weston to draft a *Statement of Intent* on fee modulation to Defra for circulation to members of the meeting before end of w/c 20th May.
- Simon Weston to contact CEPI to discuss the appetite and likely timeline for a pan European test protocol.
- Simon Weston and Stuart Lendrum to publish meeting notes on relevant web sites.