

## SAFEPAP

*An industry resource on the safety of paper and board for food contact*

### The issue

When used as a food packaging material, paper and board have become the subject of ever-increasing, critical examination caused by trends in consumer safety. Manufacturers are regularly exposed to questions about the safety of their products and the nature of raw materials. Particularly relevant here has been the increasing use of recovered paper as a raw material and the general awareness of the need for the safe use of chemicals. There has, consequently, been an increasing need for the establishment of a data resource to enable the industry to respond, in a consistent and informed way, to questions from customers, consumers and other interested parties. Therefore, in November 2002 it was decided, by CEO's of the major European companies in the paper packaging chain, to begin the Safepap Project with the objective of collecting together all existing, relevant knowledge and publishing it in a series of papers. These would be for the use of individuals within the industry when faced with questions on the main aspects of legislation, manufacture, product safety and chemicals. It was intended, also, that the material should act as an educational resource for industry practitioners working in the food contact area.

### The project

The project was completed at the end of 2006 and formally launched at European Paper Week in November of that year. The results are owned and managed by the industry's Food Contact Strategy Group. This group will also have responsibility for updating the information as required. The members of this group are drawn from the European organisations CEPI, CITPA and ETS, who represent most organisations in the paper packaging chain.

Four main categories of information provided are:

- **General information** – introduction, glossary, abbreviations, etc.
- **Fact Sheets** – answers to frequently asked questions with references to relevant literature.
- **Summary information on chemicals** – information on the safety of a range of chemicals associated with paper and board.
- **Detailed information** – a spreadsheet, with restricted access, containing scientific data extracted from the background literature.

### Status

The material is available on a separate, dedicated website with its own password-protected access arrangements. The site is open to anyone in the paper packaging chain with a legitimate interest, although access to the spreadsheet of detailed information (see 4, above) is restricted to personnel chosen by companies as specialists with an ability to evaluate and correctly interpret the scientific data. Password applications can be made to either of the persons detailed in Contacts, below.

Suggestions for additional information which could be useful within the site are welcome and should be addressed to either of those below.

### Additional information

- Safepap website: [www.safepap.eu](http://www.safepap.eu)
- Contact: Hanneke De Leeuw, CITPA General Secretary, [hanneke.deleeuw@beveragecarton.eu](mailto:hanneke.deleeuw@beveragecarton.eu) or Nigel Barnwell, CEPI Technical Manager, [n.barnwell@cepi.org](mailto:n.barnwell@cepi.org)

