

## **Recyclability of Solid Board Packaging**

The new German packaging law expressly requires to consider the recyclability of packaging in the licence fees of “dual systems”. The lawfully required and for the first time in Germany 2019 published „minimum standard for the rating of the recyclability of packaging“ by the German “Zentralen Stelle Verpackungsregister (ZSVR)” defines the minimum criteria for the determination of the recyclability of packaging.

Raw material recycling has a long tradition in manufacturing of solid board. Today, solid board packaging are produced to nearly 100 % by recovered waste paper which is collected in commerce, industry, administration and private households. At it's „end of life“ solid board packaging are recycled and so they go through a nearly closed material cycle.

The German Verband Vollpappe-Kartonagen (VVK) e.V. had tested the recyclability of a representative sample of solid board packaging of different material qualities and combinations by the Technical University Darmstadt - Paper Manufacturing and Mechanical Process Engineering (PMV).

The investigations have been carry out according the PTS method PTS-RH 021/97:2012 to which also the minimum standard of the ZSVR is refers regarding the recyclability of paper based packaging. With regard to the current discussion of a european harmonisation of recyclability testing for all tests a significantly shorter pulping time of 10 minutes has been chosen than in the PTS method with 20 minutes.

The results confirm the circular character of solid board packaging, trays and crates: for all examined types of solid board packaging recyclability with a very high fiber yield could be confirmed.

The current VVK examinations have shown once more that solid board packaging take a top position regarding environmental sustainability, resource conservation and raw material cycle.

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