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December 2021 **magazine**
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European business reusing more wooden pallets

European pallet and packaging manufacturers are repairing more wooden pallets for reuse than ever, according to a survey by European Federation of Wooden Pallet & Packaging Manufacturers (FEFPEB).

Latest figures from the organisation, show that 197.5 million pallets were repaired in 2019, an increase of 25 per cent on the previous survey carried out three years earlier.

In countries that are running formal packaging surveys – such as France, the Netherlands, and the UK – pallet repairs are generally equal to, or exceed, the numbers for new pallet production. Some 435.9 million pallets were manufactured during the same three-year period, an increase of 12 per cent on

FEFPEB's 2016 study. Accordingly, the organisation estimates the European total to be closer 500 million.

These figures do not yet include repairs to pallets in several of FEFPEB's 18 member countries and there are also significant numbers of pallets inspected and reused every year without needing to be repaired.

The figures also show an increase in the use of industrial and lightweight packaging, growing by 8.5 and 14 per cent, respectively, between 2016 and 2019.

FEFPEB President Rob van Hoesel said: "We are encouraged by the results of FEFPEB's latest manufacture and repair survey, as they show not only an increase in the use of all kinds of wooden

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European business reusing more wooden pallets

packaging, but also a welcome growth in reuse and repair of these products. Wooden pallets and packaging have a key role to play in reducing the carbon footprint of businesses and establishing true sustainability in supply chains.

“Awareness about the need for action on climate change has increased, so we can expect demand for environment-friendly business solutions such as wooden pallets and packaging to increase in the months ahead. I will be interested to see the impact of this on our manufacturing and repair figures for the three years ahead.”

At FEFPEB’s 2019 agm, Van Hoesel called for the pallet and packaging industry to target sourcing 100 per cent of its timber from certified sources, such as PEFC and FSC, to further increase its strong environmental credentials.

“With COP26 taking place in Glasgow, it’s a great time to remind ourselves of the important place wood has in building the circular economies we need for the future. Wood is already the most sustainable choice of raw material for manufacturing and as such has been recognised as central by authorities including the European Commission to doing this and lowering the carbon footprint of businesses,” said van Hoesel.

FEFPEB is continually seeking to improve the collation and analysis of data on the manufacture, reuse and repair of wooden packaging and pallets. With packaging surveys already taking place in several countries, the organisation is working with its membership to encourage further measurement and reporting to build up an increasingly accurate picture of developments within Europe.

FEFPEB has collaborated with the European Woodworking Industry Confederation (CEI-Bois) to ensure that pallets and packaging have been included as part of the organisation’s presentation of the forest-based industries at COP26 and submissions on developing more sustainable business in the EU.

The packaging and pallet industry purchases approximately 25 per cent of the European sawmill output of timber.



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Timber packaging and pallet sector tackling 'severe' challenges



The packaging and pallet sector is battling major ongoing pressure as the result of Covid, Brexit and other factors, according to the Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation (TIMCON).

Delegates at the organisation's GM, which was held in person in Manchester at the end of last month, heard how industry specific and wider general influences were impacting heavily on the supply and demand of wood and products such as pallets and packaging.

TIMCON President John Dye said while the annual increase in demand related to Christmas has started, there remains a shortage of used pallets in the UK – with recycling and biomass diverting some stocks away from the market – coupled with strong demand for reconditioned pallets in the EU market. Brexit continues to have an impact on the business with additional administrative, time and cost burdens for goods crossing between the UK and the EU.

In general, several interlinked crises in related industries were deepening the issues, he added. These include the ongoing global imbalance of container locations around the world, which has pushed the price of shipping to new highs; the difficulty in logistics, haulage and related industries in recruiting and retaining staff; and continued pressure on supplies due to a post-lockdown rebound in demand for timber in several markets, including China and the US.

Dye said: "While the pallet and packaging industry is fully operational, ongoing challenges for logistics-focused industries in general and our sector specifically, is placing intense pressure on our members. We are continuing to monitor the situation and communicating with other industries and the government to ensure keep the supply chain updated."

TIMCON recently wrote to MPs including Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng, asking for urgent assistance

to address staff shortages; and to reinstate both the mothballed Renewable Heat Initiative to allow the industry to invest in kilns and the subsidy for red diesel. The organisation has also engaged fully with the recent Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Packaging Waste Regulations (PWR) consultation processes.

Also at the meeting, TIMCON launched its annual UK Wood Pallets & Packaging Market survey for 2020, which it publishes jointly with the Forestry Commission. The latest study showed a 1.5 per cent growth in reuse of wooden pallets, to a total of 49 million; while, despite the pandemic, production of new pallets remained similar to the previous year, at a total of 44.9m.

"Who would have ever imagined that in a year that saw our supply chains being decimated and the main customer of our products, the construction sector, shutting down for four to five months, the wooden pallet and packaging sector has actually ended up manufacturing the same quantity of pallets as 2019," said Dye. "After this incredibly difficult time this is a really positive outcome. And we are pleased to see further growth in the recovery, repair and reuse of pallets; this is part of a welcome trend that further still improves our sector's unrivalled environmental credentials."

TIMCON gave the meeting an update on projects including the production of a document on safe pallet stacking heights, further engagement with government, and its communications activity.

It also reported on extremely membership retention (98 per cent) and the addition of seven new members during the past year, which Dye said is evidence of the industry's desire for strong representation in the face of multiple challenges in the market.






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Record Salvador Sales for Daltons Wadkin

Daltons Wadkin has been named as the top performing agent worldwide for sales of Salvador crosscut saws.

"We have been working with Salvador for almost 15 years," said Alex Dalton, Managing Director at Daltons Wadkin. "The partnership has gone from strength to strength, and we are now Salvador's premier agent both in terms of turnover and units sold. The early years involved a lot of hard work, but we have established ourselves as the go-to name for automatic crosscutting solutions."

As the sole agent for the Italian manufacturer in the UK and Ireland, Daltons Wadkin has seen exponential sales growth in Salvador products over the past three years, with 2021 breaking records once again.

Alex Dalton attributed the continued success to two key factors. "Firstly, Salvador products are just awesome – not my words, but the feedback from our customers," he said. "As a dedicated manufacturer of automatic crosscut saws, they have spent over 35 years developing a range of robust, reliable cutting solutions that are now the industry standard for many sectors."

The second key element is support and backup. Daltons service team now includes 20 regionally based mechanical, electrical and CNC engineers, providing onsite support as well as remote telephone and NET assistance.

"When customers invest in high production machinery such as Salvador crosscuts, support is absolutely paramount. It is not enough that the product is fantastic. If a machine goes down we must react instantly", says Alex Dalton. "We have invested heavily in our engineering team and spare parts stock to deliver unrivalled customer care across the UK and Ireland. This, I believe, sets us heads and shoulders above the competition. Daltons Wadkin plus Salvador, equals customer success."

For more information on the Salvador range of products contact Daltons Wadkin on 0115 986 5201, email info@daltonswadkin.com or visit www.daltonswadkin.com



Alex Dalton (left) and Giovanni Portelli (right) of Salvador

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Another year, another challenge

After the extraordinarily testing year that was 2020, wooden pallet and packaging businesses went into 2021 expecting that, during the 12 months ahead, we would face further challenges, too.

Well, we were right. From the very stroke of midnight on January 1, when the UK's transition phase out of the EU came to a full and final end - UK-EU supply chains were faced with an immediate increase in the admin, time and cost of doing business in both the UK and EU - not forgetting the differences the Northern Ireland protocol threw into the mix.

This is not to mention what, before the final Brexit deadline, had been considered the main issue for our industry - that of ISPM15 compliance for all wooden packaging material (WPM) moving between the UK and the EU. Good communication and action meant our industry was well-prepared for the introduction of this additional requirement, and the work in reaching this level of readiness was recognised at TIMCON's general meeting in March, by Defra's head of programme, Will Surman.

While the adoption of the new phytosanitary regime appears to have been, mainly smooth, with widespread supply chain disruption, it is still early to say definitively what its impact on business has been.

Brexit remained a theme throughout the year, lurking in the background and cited often as a factor that worsened the effects of a perfect storm of crises, including shipping difficulties, labour shortages within our businesses and in haulage and logistics in general, and severe challenges with raw material shortages and price rises.

These issues were among those about which TIMCON has communicated with government during the year. Action has included letters to Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng calling for urgent help to address the lack of staff in the pallet and packaging sector; and the reinstatement of the Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (NDRHI) and subsidised Red Diesel; and to Senator Pippa Hackett about the remaining delays on issuing tree

felling licences in Ireland.

TIMCON also took part in government consultations on the reforms of Packaging Waste Regulations (PWR) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

Over the past decade (and more), we have forged ever stronger links with government and other stakeholders at home and overseas. And a collaborative approach is paying dividends in terms of achieving the outcomes we need as an industry - and, of course, has seen strong friendships develop with colleagues around the world along the way.

TIMCON's extremely active year culminated with our first in-person meeting for almost two years, which although not yet the 'return to normal' we are all looking for, was a welcome milestone indeed.

At times like these, the industry needs a strong trade association. We at TIMCON have strived to become this, and to give our businesses a voice and direction. I think our work has been reflected by the additions to our membership during the year.

2022 promises to be as active once again. However, before we get all get started, I hope you have the opportunity for some rest, reflection and celebration with your friends and family.

Best wishes for a very happy Christmas and a successful 2022.

John Dye,
President,
Timber
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Lindum recycled wrap addresses new Plastics Tax

Lindum Packaging has launched a new range of pallet wrap made with 30 per cent recycled plastic - ahead of the introduction of the Plastics Tax next year.

The company says the product has been developed to add more sustainable options to its existing range and can help companies avoid paying the new tax.

From April 2022, UK businesses will be taxed £200 for every tonne of plastic they use that does not contain a minimum of 30 per cent recycled material; pallet wrap is subject to the tax.

According to Lindum, the new range incorporates nano technology, allowing a more environmentally friendly product to be produced with the added benefits of nano stretch film. The range includes a stretch film option for pallet wrapping by hand, as well as packaging tape for machine and manual carton sealing, plus pallet hood covers.

Lindum's in-house packaging technologist Rick Sellars said: "The Plastics Tax is getting ever closer and these new products will help our customers remove or limit the liabilities of the tax within their packaging operations.

"Unlike 100 per cent virgin polymer films, the new

range contains polythene resin material that has been recycled and then re-granulated. They meet the stringent OPRL definition of 'recycled' and are compatible with a circular economy model."

Sellars added the company was expecting a "huge surge in demand" for recycled content wrap, "so we are advising customers to take the necessary steps to switch to recycled content or minimise use of pallet wrap to reduce their liability."

"This new range will not be suitable for all our customers, and we are working across the supply chain to find ways in which businesses can reduce the amount of virgin wrap they use," he said.

The company has advised businesses to order well before the April deadline.

Lindum recently launched a mobile pallet stability test lab, which, by analysing the way customers use plastic stretch wrap, aims to reduce over-packaging, improve performance and reduce liability for the new tax.

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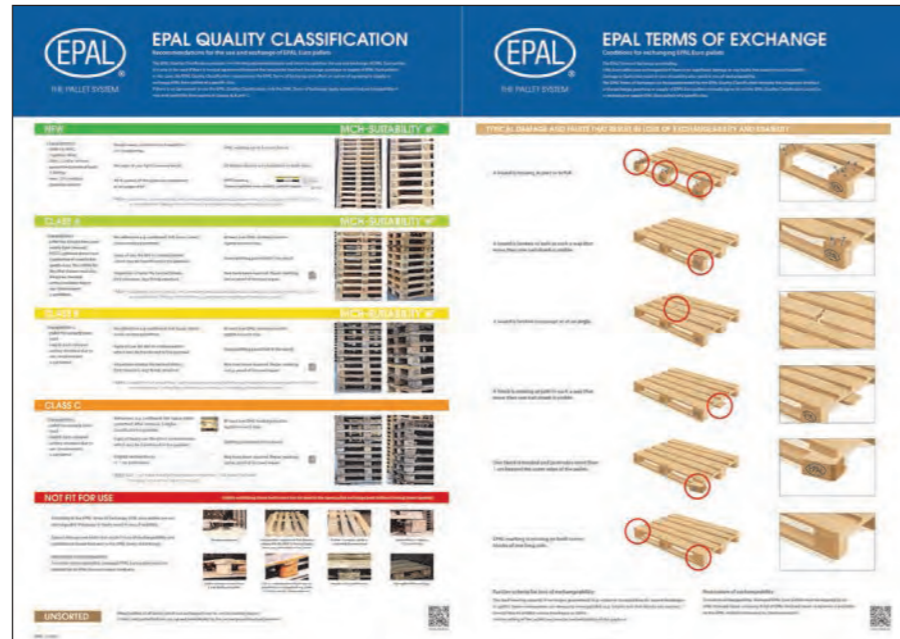
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New EPAL Quality Classification enhances the use and exchange of EPAL Euro pallets



The European Pallet Association (EPAL) has revised its quality classification and terms of exchange in close collaboration with retail, hauliers, pallet service providers and repairers. The new edition of the EPAL quality classification still includes the distinction, commonly recognised in the market, between new EPAL Euro pallets, and class A, B and C used EPAL Euro pallets. The new group 'Unsolicited pallets' covers pallets which are mixed by participants in the EPAL exchange pool and are exchanged one-to-one without sorting.

The quality classification offers EPAL euro pallet users an easy way of agreeing delivery of a defined quality of used EPAL Euro pallets when buying or exchanging EPAL Euro pallets corresponding to the individual user's specific requirements. This increases the effective deployment of used EPAL Euro pallets.

Jean-Philippe Gaussorgues, President of EPAL France and Vice President of EPAL: "One of the significant strengths of the EPAL Euro pallet exchange pool is the flexible use of EPAL Euro pallets of all ages and quality classes to suit the various needs of different sectors and companies. The new EPAL quality classification makes this even easier and even more effective."

According to EPAL, its quality certification has become more important in recent years. Originally drafted for the German market in 2011 by EPAL Deutschland and GSI Germany, it has been adopted of the firm's national committees.

The new edition of the quality classification and the terms of exchange will be available in more

than twenty languages by the end of 2021. It will also be included in the new EPAL app at the start of 2022 to make it even easier to use in practice.

Roman Malicki, President of EPAL Poland and member of the EPAL Board said: "Cross-border supply chains and the increase in digital pallet management mean the conditions for the use and exchange of EPAL Euro pallets need to be the same in every country and easily understood by all users. The new edition of the quality classification and terms of exchange approved by all EPAL national committees improves pallet exchange throughout Europe."

The EPAL terms of exchange and the quality classification are now published in one document with a new contemporary layout. Smooth exchange of EPAL Euro pallets and certified repair of damaged EPAL Euro pallets need clear rules. The way the EPAL exchange conditions are laid out in the new edition suits these requirements even better.

Pierre Clénin, Managing Director of EPAL Suisse and member of the EPAL Board said: "The EPAL Euro pallet exchange pool has the EPAL terms of exchange at its foundations. Nothing has changed in this respect with this new edition of the quality classification and terms of exchange. The terms of exchange alone will still apply in the future even if it is not possible to agree a specific quality class according to the EPAL quality classification."

The EPAL quality classification and terms of exchange can be download in several languages at the EPAL website, www.epal.eu.

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CHEP contributes to COP26 discussions

Senior representatives from CHEP and its parent company Brambles, spoke at the COP26 conference's Sustainable Innovation Forum.

Juan Jose Freijo, Vice President, Global Head of Sustainability and EMEA Government Affairs of Brambles, joined speakers from Coca-Cola, E.ON, WWF and the Schmidt Ocean Institute on the 'Building Resilient Systems that Benefit the Future of our Planet and People' panel, which examined the importance of biodiversity and nature to addressing the climate emergency.

The panel examined the system changes needed to halt nature degradation, reverse habitat loss and manage risk.

Matt Quinn, Vice President Northern Europe of CHEP joined BMW Group, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners, Johnson Controls and Roland Berger to look at 'Supply Chains and Circular Manufacturing - Driving Emissions Reduction'. This panel discussed how global supply chains can help meet Paris Agreement goals and what technologies/innovations are needed to support sustainable supply chains in the future.

Murray Gilder, Vice President, CHEP Automotive, spoke at the 'Beyond the EV Tipping Point' session. Panelists looked at accelerating the mass shift to EVs and current constraints to overcome to implement EV infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Brambles' Chief Financial Officer, Nessa O'Sullivan was part of the 'How to deliver investment in nature' panel, hosted by McKinsey & Company, which addressed the question of how to invest in natural assets - an essential component of the net-zero transition.

Quinn said it was an "exciting opportunity" to showcase sustainability work from within the business.

"Brambles and CHEP have become carbon neutral in internal operations, a first key step towards decarbonising our supply chain as part of our strategy to pioneer regenerative supply chains," he said. "We couldn't be prouder of this milestone, but the work doesn't stop here. The real challenge lies ahead of us in advocating for our customers and suppliers to become carbon neutral in their operations too, so I'm looking forward to hearing the attendees' thoughts at the conference."



Offcuts

Snap the pallet: EPAL launches anniversary photo competition

EPAL has launched a photograph competition to celebrate its 30th anniversary year - inviting people around the world to share beautiful or unusual pictures of EPAL pallets.

The company is awarding a prize of €1,000 for the best photo and five runner-up prizes of €100, every month between December 2021 and February 2022. The overall winner will receive €3,000 at the end of the competition.

The photos will be published in an online gallery on the EPAL website, and on Instagram under SnapThePallet.

Your photos should be uploaded to the competition website: <https://lnkd.in/dJHf3NJY>



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