

Board Converting News™

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The ONLY Weekly Publication Serving the U.S. and Canadian Corrugated and Folding Carton Industries

FBA: Shipments Increase In May

Industry shipments of corrugated products increased 3.9 percent in May, from 30.17 bsf in 2015 to 31.33 bsf in 2016, the Fibre Box Association (FBA) reported. There was one more shipping day in May of 2016.

Average weekly shipments, however, dropped 1.1 percent. Year-to date shipments at the end of May 2016 increased 1.6 percent.

Containerboard consumption in May increased, from 2.457 million tons in 2015 to 2.542 million tons in 2016, or 3.5 percent. Year-to-date containerboard consumption is up 2.3 percent over 2015.

Containerboard inventories at corrugator plants decreased 3.5 percent from 2.297 million tons in April to 2.215 million tons in May. Weeks of supply decreased from 3.8 to 3.7 or 2.6 percent, from April to May.

Containerboard inventories at box plants and mills posted their largest monthly decline this year, returning to the relatively stable range they had occupied in 2015, noted Dick Storat in his *Scoring Boxes* newsletter.

“Not only did containerboard inventories take a turn for the better, but total U.S. supply chain inventories relative to

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AICC/FBA Fly-In: Presence Matters

by Len Prazych

Politically-minded members of the corrugated, folding carton and printing industries joined forces with the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) on June 6-7 for the 2016 AICC/FBA Industry Fly-In in Washington, DC. The 12th annual event saw more than 40 delegates gathering for a full day of legislative briefings, informative and inspiring keynote speeches, private visits with Congressional leaders and/or their aides and finally, a meeting with U.S. Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan.



Members of AICC, FBA and PIA gathered on the balcony outside the office of U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan after a meeting with him during the 12th Annual Industry Fly-In on June 7 in Washington, DC.

As it has done in previous years, the Fly-In provided its delegates with the information, the opportunity, and the platform on which to participate in government and the political process, as well as pursue the constitutional right to petition our leaders to express grievances.

The belief that the efforts of delegates who travel from around the country to engage with Congressional leaders in Washington, DC, do

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Great Northern StrataGraph Receives Supplier Award

Oshkosh, Wisconsin based Great Northern StrataGraph has been awarded the first ever Platinum Supplier Award by Hickory Farms, headquartered in Toledo, Ohio.



From left, Dave Buechel, Great Northern Account Representative; Brett Armstrong, StrataGraph General Manager; Renee Goetting, Hickory Farms Commodity Manager; Ty Hanline, Vice President, Hickory Farms Supply Chain; Bruce Duerr, StrataGraph Sales; Carrie Fricke, StrataGraph Customer Service Manager; and Brian McCarthy, Hickory Farms Director of Warehouse Operations.

To qualify, StrataGraph had to achieve three consecutive annual Gold ratings. The Platinum award goes to the supplier that exemplifies a high-performance culture, quality, operational excellence and proactive improvement for long-term focus.

StrataGraph supplies 100 percent of Hickory Farms packaging and display needs from multiple Great Northern facilities. When presenting the award, Hickory Farms noted that StrataGraph achieved both the three consecutive annual Gold ratings as well as the Platinum award.

“Our on time deliveries have been 98 percent or better over this three-year span, with less than one percent defects,” said Mike Schliesmann, Executive VP and StrataGraph Business Unit Manager. “This is quite remarkable for a seasonal account in which everything is produced and delivered within a four-month window.”

Green Bay Packaging Receives PPSA Safety Excellence Award

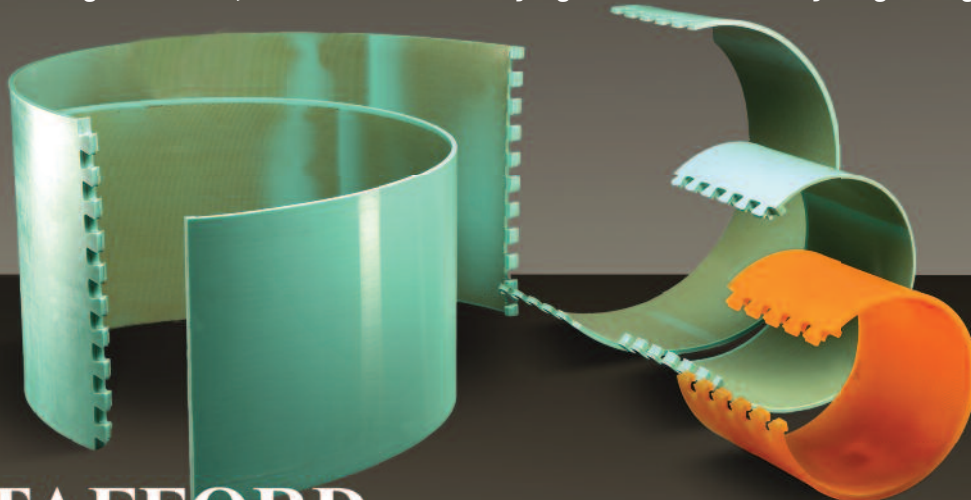
The Pulp & Paper Safety Association (PPSA) has selected Green Bay Packaging's (GBP) Fort Worth Division as its 2016 recipient of The Award of Excellence. The Award of Excellence is the association's most prestigious award given for operating excellence. The award is based on the best three consecutive year safety record at a converting operation.

“We stress the importance of safety in everything we do,” stated GBP's Fort Worth Division Vice President and General Manager Rob Schroeder. “We strive to continually improve the safety of our operations and are proud of our employees who have worked hard to earn this prestigious recognition.”

“Safety is a core value for GBP and we are all very proud of the Fort Worth team for their focus on Safety and appreciate this recognition by PPSA,” said Bryan Hollenbach, Green Bay Packaging Executive Vice President.

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