

PHARMACEUTICAL & MEDICAL Packaging NEWS

THE PACKAGING MAGAZINE FOR THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

ELECTRONICALLY REPRINTED FROM
MARCH/APRIL 2014
VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

Meeting Global Shipping Needs

p. 26

**Contract Packagers
on Challenges,
Rewards** p. 22

Interphex Show Issue

PHARMACEUTICAL & MEDICAL Packaging NEWS

THE PACKAGING MAGAZINE FOR THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

ELECTRONICALLY REPRINTED FROM
MARCH/APRIL 2014
VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

EPS Recycling Climbs

A report on expanded polystyrene recycling shows an increase in overall recycling, but notes differences when comparing the amounts of postconsumer and postindustrial pounds recycled. According to a press release issued by ACH Foam Technologies, the EPS Industry Alliance's 2012 bi-annual recycling report shows a modest decrease in the number of post-consumer pounds recycled and a substantial increase in the number of post-industrial pounds recycled based on data received from fifty-one EPS manufacturers and independent recyclers in the United States. The EPS-IA reports that post-industrial and post-consumer EPS recycling increased from 71.3 million to 93.7 million pounds.

"The push for increased involvement in take-back programs by commercial and industrial firms has made an impressive impact in EPS recycling," states Mary Burk of ACH Foam Technologies in the release. "ACH and its partner-members in the association have worked hard to educate commercial customers about take-back programs and initiate creative ways to push the recycling rates higher. We are seeing a good result in the commercial/industrial sector, but now it's time to elicit a higher level of awareness and increased participation



DuraTherm insulated shippers from ACH Foam Technologies.

from end-users that will move the post-consumer rates in the same direction."

Programs by EPS-IA and its members seek to encourage EPS recycling. Debuted in 2013 was the Excellence in EPS Recycling Award, which recognized Dart Container for a California curbside recycling program where more than 65 cities participated. The result was more than 500,000 lb of EPS in 2012.

ACH Foam Technologies was honored with customer Omaha Steaks in the honorable mention category for helping customers recycle meat coolers by sending them back to ACH Foam

Technologies or to a local facility.

Others recognized for recycling effort were Waste to Waves for using foam waste in the production of new surfboards; the City of Baltimore, which released a marketing program to educate residents and increase awareness of their EPS recycling program; Rapac for EcoSix; Nutrisystem and partner Foam Fabricators Inc.; Insulfoam and CLP Technologies; Styrorecycle and Whirlpool with Sonoco Protective Solutions.

Find the report at <http://www.achfoam.com/2012-Industry-Recycling-Report.aspx>.