

# European Recovered Paper Identification System

For many years, the European Paper Industry has had the goal of establishing identification for the recovered paper purchased, received, stored and consumed in paper mills. Some paper mills have already agreed with their suppliers bilaterally to identify the final supplier on recovered paper bales. The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), the European Recovered Paper Association (ERPA) and the European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD) recommend this first Recovered Paper Identification System to reach this goal. This would be a further contribution of the recovered paper sector to the current and expected legal requirements of waste traceability. The ultimate goal of the Recovered Paper Identification System is to improve the traceability of the paper mills' supply to improve safe and secure paper production processes and products.

## European Recovered Paper Identification System

Recovered paper identification starts at suppliers' sources and depots and ends at the conveyor to the pulper. Every member in the recovered paper chain has to keep track of his supplier. When the recovered paper is delivered to the paper mill, the information needed to meet the legal requirements has to be on the delivery document. If not already included in the delivery document, the following information additionally has to be identified on the delivery document accompanying the recovered paper load or being sent to the paper mill before delivery:

- **Supplier code**
- **Supplier name**
- **Grade-code**
- **Number of bales (not in the case of loose material)**
- **Net weight (if available)**
- **Lorry number (trailer)**

## Bales and loose

In the case of delivery of loose material, the information on the delivery document is sufficient. In the case of recovered paper bales, bale identification is necessary: To identify the origin (and the grade\*) of every recovered paper bale, the final supplier (and the grade\*) should be additionally marked on every bale with a unified code.

## Supplier code

The supplier code to be implemented throughout Europe has the following structure:

**XXX Y12 345**

XXX: Country code of the supplier: three letters  
(e.g. Estonia=EST, France=OFR)

Y12: Supplier's number: one letter + two numbers

345: Supplier's depot (optional): three numbers



### Grade Code\*

The code for the grade has the following structure, which is already designed for recovered paper statistics in Europe:

#### 4 5 6 7 8

- 4: EN643 group, 0=not defined, 1=ordinary, 2=medium, 3=high, 4=kraft, 5=special
- 5: EN643 grade (second digit, 0-9)
- 6: EN643 grade (3rd digit, 0-9)
- 7: EN643 sub-grade (4th digit, 0-9)
- 8: EN643 sub-grade (5th digit, 0-9)

### Technical solutions

- The letters and figures of the codes have to be marked on the surface of the bales e.g. by spraying, painting, attached paper labels, on the wire etc.
- The substances used must comply with article 3 of Regulation 1935/2004/EC (food contact) and must not be detrimental to the recyclability of the recovered paper.

### Recommended procedure to be followed

#### a) First step: loading of the lorry

- Final supplier has to inform the place of the loading previously, which code is to be marked on the bale.
- The staff of the place of loading has to secure that all the bales are marked when loading the lorry.
- All the bales have to be loaded in a way that the mark is readable when curtains of the trailer are opened.

#### b) Second step: reception at the mill

- Mill staff checks:
  - If the lorry is coming with a Delivery Note of the final supplier.
  - If there is all the information needed in the Delivery Note.
  - If mark on the bales is the one assigned to this supplier.
  - If the quality corresponds to the grade marked on the bale (where applicable).
- Mills will create their own file with this information.

#### c) Third step: internal handling of the bales

- In all the movements to be done with the bale in the Recovered Paper yard (storage, quality controls, feeding of the conveyor) up to the pulper the bale marks have to be clearly and completely visible.

\* There is an opt-out concerning the identification of the grade on the bale. The identification of the grade on the bale has to be agreed by National Associations of CEPI and the national suppliers' organisations, or via bi-lateral agreements between the buyer and the seller.