ReMA Webinar, Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Solving the Fiber Packaging Recycling Puzzle: ReMA's Fiber Recycling Readiness Tool

Leonard Zeid, Midland Davis, Chair of The Tool Working Group (WG)

David Brabham, Georgia Pacific, WG Member

Daniel Liswood, The Center for the Circular Economy, WG Member

Bret Biggers, ISRI, Staff Liaison, The Tool

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ReMA's Design for Recycling Award ®

Awarded to Sonoco Alloyd during ISRI2022 for its EnviroSense PaperBlister packaging, which is used in place of plastic while maintaining durability and efficiency.

Annually to promote, encourage & recognize DFR efforts

Criteria:

- Contain the maximum amount of recyclable materials.
- Easily recycled through current or newly designed recycling processes and procedures.
- Recycling must be cost effective not exceed the value of its recycled materials.
- Free of hazardous materials that are not recyclable or impede the recycling process.
- Minimizes the time and cost to recycle the product.
- Reduce raw materials use by including recycled materials and/or components.
- Net gain in the overall product recyclability while reducing overall negative environmental impacts.

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Packaging Type is Changing

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ReMA Fiber Recycling Readiness Tool

A research-based approach for users to assess the extent to which fiber-based packaging is compatible with the current US residential recycling system and does not pose known challenges for that system.

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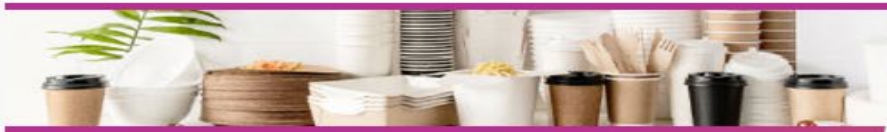
ReMA Fiber Recycling Readiness Tool

Supporting brands and packaging in designing for recycling



The ReMA Recycling Readiness Tool is a science-based online resource for brands,packaging companies, and other industry users to assess the extent in which fiber-based packaging is likely to pass through the current U.S. residential recycling system and whether it poses known challenges for that system. This resource focuses specifically on post-residential consumer fiber-based packaging that will be marketed in the United States.

Try it out!

fiberrrt.org

ReMA Fiber Recycling Readiness Tool

- Can decrease contamination at the MRF
- Can increase the quality of the bale being sent to the consuming mills
- User receives immediate feedback

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ReMA Fiber Recycling Readiness Tool

October 11, 2023

www.fiberrrt.org

- Specifically for **post-consumer fiber-based packaging** marketed in the United States.
- Resource for brands and packaging engineers to determine likelihood the packaging will flow through current recycling infrastructure.
- Incorporates all stages in the recycling process:
  - Packaging Design
  - Collection
  - Processing
  - End-use market

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The Tool - Working Group Members

Leonard Zeid, Chair **Midland Davis**	Alcoa	PADNOS
	Allied Alloys	Phinix, LLC
	Balcones Resources	Pratt Industries
	Closed Loop Partners	Sonoco
	CW Metals	South Post Oak Recycling
	Georgia Pacific	Temperpack
	Manitoba Corporation	Veritiv
	merQBiz	Westrock
	Midland Davis	WM

The Tool Developed in Collaboration with

American Forest & Paper Association

FPI FOODSERVICE PACKAGING INSTITUTE®

The Recycling Partnership
Solving for Circularity

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY®

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MRF Survey Objectives
A Science Based Approach

MOORE & Associates

- Determine relative volumes
- Understand how fiber packaging moves through the MRF and the extent to which current processes help or hinder the recycling of such materials
- Overview of paper sorting equipment
- Identify strategies where designers and manufacturers of fiber packaging might make changes to improve recyclability

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- **"Green"** means the package meets the Tool criteria and can likely pass through the average MRF in the U.S.
- **"Yellow"** means the package did not meet the criteria but could likely pass through the average MRF with some modifications, or that it would pass through the recycling infrastructure in some local/regional systems, but not others.
- "Red" means that the package did not meet the criteria, and there are significant compatibility issues with the package and the current recycling system in the US.

Key Issues Addressed

Size (3X3X3 inches)

Inks (Water based)

Laminations/coatings (Poly)

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USERS: ReMA Fiber Recycling Readiness Tool

Nearly 30 Brand and Packaging Users

Accounting for nearly $1 Trillion USD in revenue

Some packaging has passed, some failed

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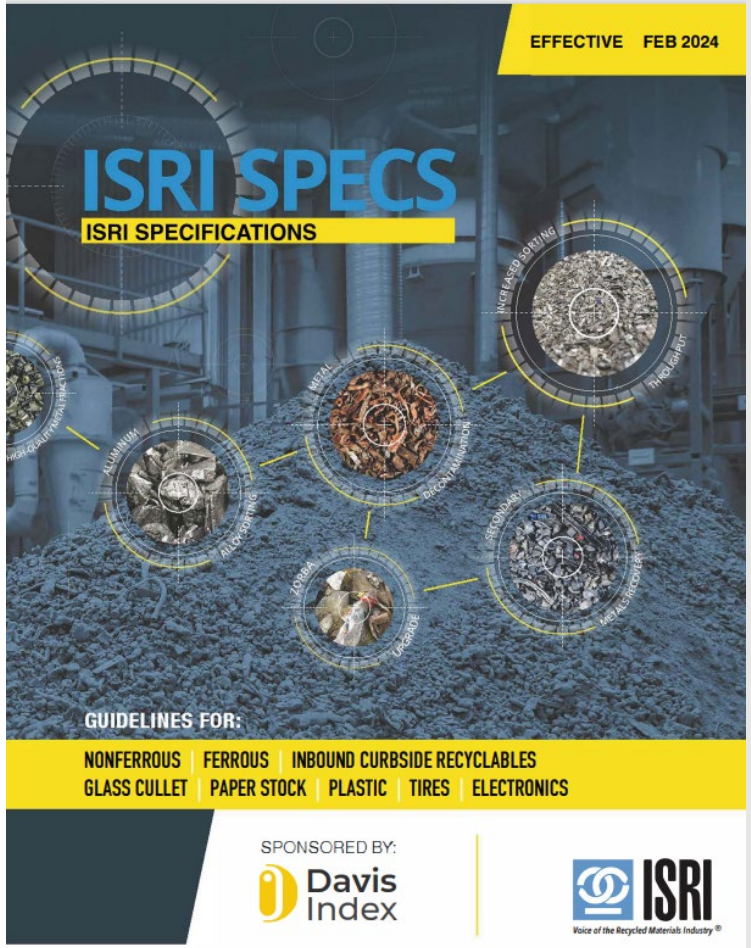
ISRI Specifications



Internationally recognized guidelines used by buyers and sellers of recycled materials and products –

- Form the common language used globally for transactions of these materials/products for purposes of recycling.
- Applicable across commodities, sources, and end markets.
- Routinely updated.

Contains –

- More than 400 “grades” of recycled materials.
- Preamble language for each commodity with specific terms defined.

NEW on-line tool: www.ISRISPECS.org

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Thank You

ReMA Fiber Recycling Readiness Tool

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