

SPRING

► DOES THIS LOOK LIKE BOTTLES TO YOU?



Every so often we are challenged by a foreign object in a bulk bag. This can play havoc on equipment but, most importantly, on the health and safety of workers. Please be extremely vigilant on this matter.

► SORT #1 - ALUMINUM

Concerns were brought to our attention that overfilling of aluminum bags might bring about a weight issue with RC staff and drivers alike. Encorp suggest centres limit the #1 (aluminum) to 1800 per bag.



1800 containers
(62 lbs)
(28 kg)

2200 containers
(74 lbs)
(34 kg)

► JOIN ENCORP AT THE GREEN PROCUREMENT EVENT OF THE YEAR

The New Brunswick Environmental Industry Association along with its partners, the New Brunswick Procurement Management Institute, the New Brunswick Department of Environment, Business New Brunswick, New Brunswick Department of Supply and Service, and Encorp, are hosting a Forum and Trade Show for both buyers and sellers of green New Brunswick products and services. We have assembled leading international, national, regional and local businesses, organizations and experts to discuss green procurement, sustainable supply chains, international and national environmental certification trends, green marketing, and to talk about how to both buy and sell green products and services. The event is free, so call Pauline at 506 389-7321 to register.

**THINK
PENSONS
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**GREEN
PRODUCTS
& SERVICES
FORUM
PRODUITS
ET SERVICES
ÉCOLOGIQUES**

**April 19 avril 2011 - Fredericton
Convention Centre de convention**

► CAPS ON BOTTLES?



Caps on bottles have been an issue from the inception of the beverage container program and it was interesting to hear the discussion at the last ERA meeting. Association members appear quite pleased and proud to be associated with the Kinsmen Club in collecting tabs off aluminum cans for a worthwhile charitable cause, notwithstanding the fact that the aluminum actually belongs to the program.

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR), a national trade association representing more than 90 per cent of the post-consumer plastic processing capacity in North America, recently announced that their members support putting caps on bottles and containers for recycling.

APR states that plastics recyclers have the technology to sort and recycle the closures with bottles and has also reported growing demand in the domestic marketplace for these materials.

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Why do we recycle? It was recently brought to our attention here at Encorp, that a brother and sister enterprise in Kent County was started to collect recyclable containers from friends and neighbors on Saulnier Road. It stands as a reminder of why we love this business so much!

► BULK BAGS

Subsequent to the last ERA meeting held in Fredericton on January 16, some centers mentioned that drivers were requesting that RC place the tags in a specific manner on the bulk bags.

After further investigation, it was determined that for enhanced handling performance, we would advise RC to prioritize placing the tags in the following order:

Out of the four handles on the bag there are only two handles that can be used to place the tag properly. Two of the handles are used for the Velcro enclosures, and the other two are grab handles for handling the bag. From our experience with the Velcro enclosures, the tags are better protected if they are placed on the grab handles versus the enclosure handles. Drivers will work with centers on this matter to avoid any potential problems in the future.



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► EXTRACT FROM RECENT EWRA NEWSLETTER:

The Association has also been active in saving pop can tabs for scrap aluminum and beverage container donations to support the Kinsmen 'Tabs for Wheelchairs' campaign. Scotiabank recently donated \$5000 towards the support of this program. ERA volunteers also helped store, pack and load a shipment of seven pallets of wheelchairs and walkers that were shipped to Haiti.

However, ERA members seemed completely disinterested in the much greater potential of collecting plastic bottle caps which, if appropriately presented to the public as a worthy cause, could make a significant contribution towards solving the age old problem of "caps on bottles" that redemption centres regularly complain about.

To put the matter in perspective respecting New Brunswick: The public and/or redemption centres are voluntarily removing can tabs although this is not a regulated requirement. 64,000,000 cans were refunded in 2010 and, if all tabs were removed, this would amount to 40,880 Lb of aluminum having a value of approximately \$30,600. Incidentally, there are approximately 1,560 tabs/Lb worth 48¢/1,000.

With respect to containers with plastic caps, which are required to be removed by regulation, 77,000,000 were refunded in 2010 and, if all the caps were collected, this would amount to approximately 400,000 Lb of plastic having a value of around \$100,000. On average, there are 195 caps/Lb which would be worth 25¢/1,000 at today's price for polypropylene.

Interestingly, there is a move in the US to try and recover plastic caps for recycling but their suggested approach would create problems in Canada and would not be permitted in New Brunswick under the existing legislation.

► ACCURACY REPORT CARD

In early February, Encorp distributed the first ever Report Card to Redemption Centres (RC). Redemption Centres in New Brunswick have become one of the most accurate network of recycling-depots in the country with an accuracy rate of -1.5% as of January 31st, 2011. Once adjustments are made to centres that are over $\pm 2\%$, the overall accuracy rate goes down to -0.5%. This compares to the -7% range prior to the introduction of this new program.

Centres that were initially selected for "accelerated evaluation" were those that historically had a high frequency of inaccuracy in their counts. While those centres with more accuracy in their count levels, were sent to a "monitored evaluation" level.

Monitored centres can show a trend that can be indicative to an accuracy problem, this would obviously lead to an accelerated evaluation. We urge RCs to remain vigilant with count accuracy.

Overall, 13 centres required adjustments totaling nearly \$75,000. While 2 centres received a reimbursement of slightly over \$13,000 from Encorp. All other 60 plus centres required no adjustments. For this first period, no RC was charged an administration fee.

-7% → -1.5% → -0.5%