

Date: November 2008.

Dear Customer,

**Re: DS Smith Packaging (Eastern Box) corrugated products – REACH statement**

REACH is a new European Union regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals. It came into force on 1st June 2007 and replaces a number of European Directives and Regulations with a single system. The implementation of REACH is being phased in over the coming 10 years. REACH applies to substances manufactured or imported into the EU in quantities of 1 tonne per year or more. Generally, it applies to all individual chemical substances on their own, in preparations or in articles (if the substance is intended to be released during normal and reasonably foreseeable conditions of use from an article).

**DS Smith Packaging does not manufacture or import any chemicals which are supplied directly to our customers. It is therefore classified as a downstream user.** REACH requires downstream users to ensure that certain substances which they use in their processes are registered and evaluated.

The principal component used to produce corrugated products is paper, which is classified as an article. Under REACH, both recycled and kraft paper, which are principally comprised of cellulose pulp, are **exempted from registration**, downstream user and evaluation obligations so long as they contain less than 20% of impurities (i.e. other substances),

The chemicals contained in the adhesive preparations we use in producing corrugated board and the inks and adhesives we use in our conversion processes may need to be registered and evaluated under REACH. This is a matter our current suppliers are working on, but they do have up to 10 years to comply.

**In order to ensure that DS Smith Packaging will comply with the new REACH regulations as they come into effect, we are currently monitoring our suppliers' registration of chemicals using the European Chemical Substances Information System.** We are also contacting our suppliers directly to obtain details of their position and the timescale for registration of the products which we purchase from them. As pre-registration is only voluntary and full registration of articles and substances under REACH can take from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 until June 2018, depending on their nature and type and make-up, this may be quite a lengthy process.

Yours Sincerely,



Colin Cartwright  
Health, Safety & Environmental Manager  
Eastern Box Company  
(DS Smith Packaging Limited)