



## **RPTA CERTIFIES MEMBER MILLS AFTER RIGOROUS AUDITING PROCESS**

*-- Multi-Year Process Assures RPTA Member Company Products  
Are Suited for Direct Food Contact Packaging Applications --*

The RPTA announced today that it has completed a rigorous, two-year auditing process by NSF of RPTA member mills, assuring brand owners that products produced by certified RPTA member companies are suited for direct food contact packaging applications.

Prior to these audits, in January 2018 RPTA updated its Comprehensive Program for Food-Contact Paperboard Produced from Recycled Fiber. The Program was enhanced to comprehensively address FDA regulatory requirements that apply to recycled paperboard use in food packaging. The revised RPTA Program, which is now used for the current auditing procedures, includes processes to address:

- Use of reclaimed fiber in paperboard intended for direct food contact as stipulated in 21 CFR 176.260;
- Control of sources of recovered fiber;
- Use of additives suitable for food contact as stipulated in 21 CFR 176.170 and 21 CFR 176.180;
- Implementation of microbiological testing to assure that contamination of the surface of the paperboard is reduced to as low as practicable and the paperboard is free of pathogens;
- Implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices which include a variety of processes to assure the manufacturing of the packaging does not render the package unfit for food;
- Implementation of a chemical testing protocol for quality control end-testing;
- Maintenance of adequate company records.

- more -

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Member mills certified by RPTA have been audited and found to be in strict accordance with all these requirements.

Commenting on the accomplishment, Dave Briere, SVP of Recycled Mills, WestRock Company and RPTA Board of Trustees president said, “Our entire industry is focused on supplying North America’s brand owners with the highest quality paperboard and containerboard. This auditing and certification process continues and strengthens our commitment to purity and quality.”

Paul Schutes, executive director of the RPTA added, “There are many talented people working at our member companies in the North America. Certification demonstrates their hard work at meeting – and exceeding – the rigorous standards RPTA enforces to guarantee the exceptional quality of all our products.”

Brand owners are encouraged to require RPTA certification when specifying recycled boxboard and containerboard packaging products. For more information visit [www.rpta.org](http://www.rpta.org).

### About the RPTA

The non-profit [Recycled Paperboard Technical Association](http://www.rpta.org) (RPTA) is an innovator and partner for the paperboard packaging industry, dedicated to the continual improvement and use of recycled paperboard, containerboard and related products. Founded in the early 1950's, RPTA represents most of the companies in North America making paperboard, containerboard, corrugating medium, linerboard, boxboard, folding carton, gypsum, tube and core, chip and specialty grades from recycled fiber. The association supports training, scientific research, product stewardship, materials investigations, benchmarking, and survey work. A key initiative of the RPTA is ongoing management of a [comprehensive protocol](#) for food contact paperboard and containerboard, and a related certification program for member mills.

Our members include: Beloit Box Board Company, Caraustar Industries, Cartones America International, Cartones Ponderosa, Cascades, Corenso North America, Graphic Packaging International, Liberty Paper, Newman Paperboard, Midwest Paper Group, Pratt Industries, Ox Paperboard, PaperWorks Industries, Seven Hills Paperboard, WestRock, White Pigeon Paper Company, and Valley Converting.

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