



# PSR The Paper Stock Report

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## New Clean Recovered Fiber Association accepting members

By Ken McEntee

A new non-profit association dedicated to improving the quality of recovered paper delivered to North American mills is now accepting members. Clean Recovered Fiber Association CRFA The Clean Recovered Fiber Association (CRFA), which was organized by industry veterans Johnny Gold, Scott Jones and two other board members, was originally announced in January 2020.



“After one year of full trials and development, our full system is

in place and we are ready to accept membership to the association,” Gold said.

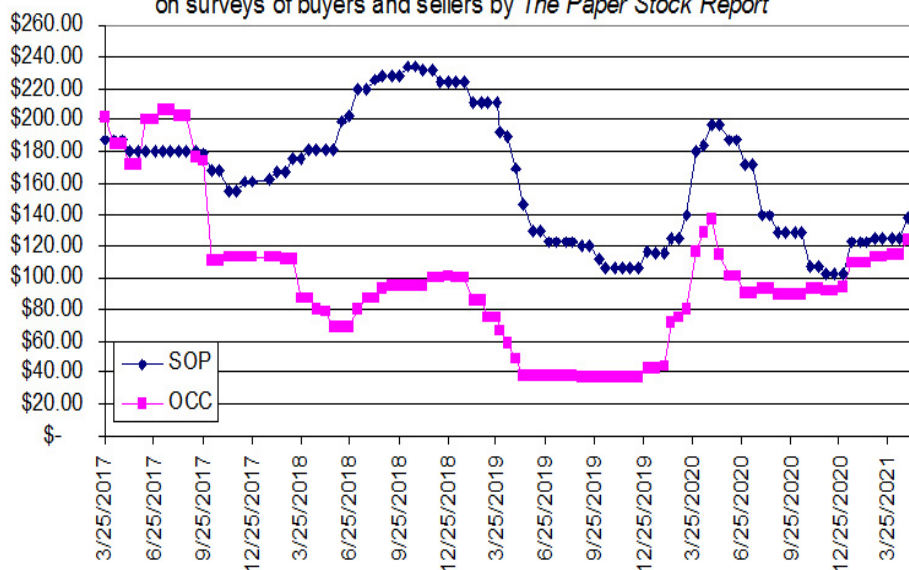
He said members will be bound by oath to uphold the highest quality fiber standards set forth by present industry demand.

CRFA members can include mills, paper packers, paper brokers, municipal and government entities and international businesses concerned about the recovery of clean recovered fiber that can be shipped and accepted by paper mills. Among the members listed on the CRFA

(See CRFA, page 4)

## OCC, SOP Prices

U.S. average national mill buying price, \$ per ton, FOB sellers dock, based on surveys of buyers and sellers by *The Paper Stock Report*



## OCC consumption reaches record in 2020

By Ken McEntee

U.S. mill consumption of old corrugated containers (OCC) reached a record level of nearly 22.8 million tons last year, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) reported. The trade association also said that 65.7 percent of paper consumed in the U.S. was recycled in 2020, maintaining a recycling rate that has been consistently high for more than a decade.

AF&PA said that since 2009, the paper recycling rate has met or exceeded 63 percent—nearly double the rate the U.S. paper industry achieved in 1990.

The recycling rate for OCC last year was 88.8 percent.

“In an unprecedented and dynamic year defined by the Covid-19 pandemic, almost two-thirds of paper was recycled and transformed into new sustainable paper

(See OCC, page 4)

### Highlights

- Current recovered paper prices
- Vaccine injuries are reportable events, OSHA says

## Recovered Scrap Paper Prices: Dealer/Processor Prices

These prices reflect the estimated value of recovered scrap paper accepted by or sold to paper stock dealers and/or recycling centers unless otherwise indicated. Prices are listed in dollars per short ton for loose (not baled) material in small quantities, unless otherwise noted. Negative values indicate a charge to accept the materials. Estimated prices are based on surveys of buyers and sellers and are not binding. Prices for grades marked "at generator's dock" indicate the estimated value for material picked up by a dealer from the place where material is generated. Prices for grades marked "at dealer's scale" indicate the estimated value of material brought to the dealer's plant or recycling center.

Grade	N.Y.	NewEng BOS	SEast ATL	PITTS/ CLEV	MWest CHIC	SWest Tex	L.A.	NWest SEAT
Mixed paper, at generator's dock:	-20/5	-20/5	-20/5	-20/5	-20/5	-20/5	-20/10	0/10
Mixed office paper, generator's dock:	0/70	0/70	0/70	0/70	0/70	0/70	0/50	0/75
White ledger, at generator's dock:	45/80	45/80	50/80	50/80	50/80	50/80	40/75	55/95
Old newspaper, delivered to dealer:	0/20	0/20	0/20	0/20	0/20	0/30	0/20	0/20
Old corrugated containers, delivered to dealer:	25/60	25/60	25/60	25/60	25/60	25/60	30/70	45/95
Old corrugated containers, supermarket-sized bales	25/80	25/80	25/80	25/85	25/85	25/80	30/100	25/100
Old magazines, delivered to dealer:	0/50	0/50	0/40	0/40	0/40	0/50	0/50	0/45

## Recovered Scrap Paper Prices: Mill Buying Prices

These figures are average prices paid by paper and board mills for the grades listed. Prices are listed in dollars per short ton, baled, FOB seller's dock (exclusive of freight), packed to PS-2017 specifications. Numbers in parenthesis are PS-2018 grade definition numbers.

Post-consumer grades:	Northeast	Southeast	Midwest	Southwest	LA	Northwest	Natl Avg	Last Issue	Last Month	Last Year
Mixed paper (54)	30/65	30/65	30/65	35/65	N/A	30/60	39.58	39.58	39.58	17.50
Sorted residential papers & news (56)	75/100	80/100	80/100	80/100	70/100	70/100	87.92	87.92	87.92	51.25
Sorted clean news (58)	110/135	115/135	110/130	115/135	100/140	100/130	120.42	120.42	120.42	86.67
Old corrugated containers (OCC) (11)	110/135	110/140	110/145	110/145	90/125	130/170	126.67	124.58	113.33	115.00
Sorted office paper (37)	130/170	130/170	130/170	130/170	110/140	120/160	144.17	137.92	125.00	196.67
White ledger, post-consumer (40)	220/260	220/265	220/260	220/265	180/200	195/230	227.92	219.17	205.00	251.67
Old magazines (10)	70/100	70/100	80/100	80/100	80/100	80/100	88.33	88.33	88.33	74.17
Industrial / Commercial grades	Northeast	Southeast	Midwest	Southwest	LA	Northwest	Natl Avg	Last Issue	Last Month	Last Year
Boxboard cuttings (4)	70/80	70/80	65/80	70/85	70/85	60/80	74.58	74.58	71.25	61.25
New double lined Kraft cuts (DLK) (13)	140/170	145/170	145/160	145/175	130/150	150/160	155.83	153.33	145.83	154.17
White news blanks (24)	210/260	230/260	220/250	230/260	200/230	200/240	232.50	232.50	232.50	225.00
Coated soft white shavings (28)	320/360	320/360	320/360	320/360	320/360	320/360	340.00	340.00	325.00	327.50
Hard white shavings (30)	380/410	380/410	380/410	380/410	360/400	380/410	392.50	392.50	368.75	400.00
White ledger, pre-consumer (41)	220/260	220/265	220/260	220/265	180/200	195/230	227.92	219.17	205.00	251.67
Coated Book Stock (43)	125/160	125/160	125/160	125/160	115/130	125/150	138.75	136.67	122.92	196.67
Coated groundwood sections (44)	80/115	80/115	70/110	80/115	90/110	80/100	95.42	95.42	95.42	85.58
Unprinted bleached sulfate (SBS) (47)	380/400	380/400	380/400	380/400	360/390	380/400	387.50	387.50	365.00	370.00
<b>Weighted average national price</b>							<b>120.39</b>	<b>118.65</b>	<b>111.61</b>	<b>115.32</b>

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### Join the survey...

The Paper Stock Report surveys scrap paper traders twice a month to obtain current, unbiased market prices.

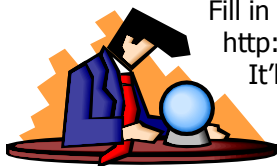
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It'll take less than a minute.

**Weigh in...**

Use the survey form to submit your observations about current scrap paper markets.



## Legal

## Vaccine injuries are reportable events, OSHA says

By Ken McEntee

**R**ecent guidance issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) said adverse reactions to mandatory experimental Covid vaccinations are work related injuries and are reportable to OSHA.

The guidance, for employers who require employees to receive the Covid injection as a condition of employment, was issued on April 21, 2021.

*The Paper Stock Report* recently reported that employers could be held liable for vaccine related injuries - including death - if they mandate the shot for their employees, as confirmed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

According to OSHA, an adverse reaction to a Covid injection is recordable if it is work related. Mandatory vaccinations are considered work related. OSHA also emphasized that an employer may not escape responsibility by claiming that a vaccine is voluntary when it, in fact, failure to be vaccinated could impact their performance rating or professional advancement.

OSHA issued the following three Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to mandatory vaccinations:

**Q. Are adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine recordable on the OSHA record keeping log?**

*A. In general, an adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine is recordable if the reaction is: (1) work-related, (2) a new case and (3) meets one or more of the general recording criteria in 29 CFR 1904.7 (e.g., days away from work, restricted work or transfer to another job, medical treatment beyond first aid).*

**Q. If I require my employees to take the COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of their employment, are adverse reactions to the vaccine recordable?**

*A. If you require your employees to be vaccinated as a condition of employment (i.e., for work-related reasons), then any adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine is work-related. The adverse reaction is recordable if it is a new case under 29 CFR 1904.6 and meets one or more of the general recording criteria in 29 CFR 1904.7.*

**Q. I do not require my employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine. However, I do recommend that they receive the vaccine and may provide it to them or make arrangements for them to receive it offsite. If an employee has an adverse reaction to the vaccine, am I required to record it?**

*A. No. Although adverse reactions to recommended COVID-19 vaccines may be recordable under 29 CFR 1904.4(a) if the reaction is: (1) work-related, (2) a new case and (3) meets one or more of the general recording criteria in 29 CFR 1904.7, OSHA is exercising its enforcement discretion to only require the recording of adverse effects to required vaccines at this time. Therefore, you do not need to record adverse effects from COVID-19 vaccines that you recommend, but do not require.*

*Note that for this discretion to apply, the vaccine must be truly voluntary. For example, an employee's choice to accept or reject the vaccine cannot affect their performance rating or professional advancement. An employee who chooses not to receive the vaccine cannot suffer any repercussions from this choice. If employees are not free to choose whether or not to receive the vaccine without fearing adverse action, then the vaccine is not merely "recommended" and employers should consult the above FAQ regarding COVID-19 vaccines that are a condition of employment.*

*Note also that the exercise of this discretion is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding OSHA's expectations as to the recording of adverse effects during the health emergency; it does not change any of employers' other responsibilities under OSHA's recordkeeping regulations or any of OSHA's interpretations of those regulations.*

*Finally, note that this answer applies to a variety of scenarios where employers recommend, but do not require vac-*

*cines, including where the employer makes the COVID-19 vaccine available to employees at work, where the employer makes arrangements for employees to receive the vaccine at an offsite location (e.g., pharmacy, hospital, local health department, etc.), and where the employer offer the vaccine as part of a voluntary health and wellness program at my workplace. In other words, the method by which employees might receive a recommended vaccine does not matter for the sake of this question.*

Along with understanding the OSHA reporting requirements for adverse reactions to the experimental Covid vaccinations, employers who mandate the shots for their employees also may be legally liable for injuries or deaths related to the shot, according to HHS.

Through May 7, 2021, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), managed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), reported more than 4,100 deaths and almost 212,000 adverse events following a Covid shot in the U.S. VAERS doesn't make a direct causal relation between the experimental vaccination and the reported condition.

Many trade associations and other organizations are actively promoting covid vaccination campaigns for employees.

With respect to immunity from vaccine liability, an HHS spokesperson told *The Paper Stock Report*, "There is a clear distinction between medical professionals who administer COVID-19 vaccines and employers who may require their employees to receive vaccinations."

Under federal law passed in 1986, vaccine manufacturers cannot be sued when a vaccine recipient is injured or killed after taking a vaccine. In 2005, the federal government enacted the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act, which authorizes the HHS secretary to issue a PREP Act declaration, during a declared public health emergency, to provide immunity from liability (except for willful misconduct) for claims:

\* Of loss caused, arising out of, relating

(See OSHA, page 4)

## Legal

### OSHA

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to, or resulting from administration or use of countermeasures to diseases, threats and conditions;

Determined by the secretary to constitute a present, or credible risk of a future public health emergency;

\* To entities and individuals involved in the development, manufacture, testing, distribution, administration and use of such countermeasures.

In March 2020, the HHS secretary issued a PREP Act Declaration covering COVID-19 tests, drugs and vaccines, providing liability protections to manufacturers, distributors, licensed healthcare professionals and select others who administer COVID-19 countermeasures, the HHS spokesperson said.

"The PREP Act does not shield employers or businesses as covered persons, and should they attempt to mandate vaccination, they may be liable for resulting harms," according to a white paper published by America's Frontline Doctors (AFD), a non-profit organization of board certified physicians that has been mocked and censored as conspiracy theorists by mainstream and social media.

HHS, however, confirms AFD's assessment.

"Medical professionals identified in the PREP Act Declaration who administer COVID-19 vaccines are covered under the PREP Act," the HHS spokesperson said. "Generally, the PREP Act does not cover individual employers or entities solely based on their requirement for employees to be vaccinated. The PREP Act may only apply to employers if the employer is administering a formal vaccination program. The PREP Act covers 'program planners,' essentially defined in the statute as individuals and entities that run medical countermeasure programs. Thus, if the employer is actually running a vaccination program, they might be a covered person under the PREP Act. Whether or not the employers have other liability protections may depend on state law or other provi-

sions, or their insurance. HHS is not in a position to comment on those possibilities."

Although opinions about the safety and risk/benefit of the covid shots being given today vary from person to person, the fact that the vaccines are authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as "investigational" under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) may have important legal implications, AFD said.

"Pursuant to an EUA, each person has a right to decline a medication/biologic that is not fully licensed," AFD said in the white paper. "The subject needs to be told the risks/benefits and of the right to decline. An experimental treatment cannot be forced. So, for example, if a teachers' union or an airline attempts to mandate a COVID-19 vaccine issued under an EUA, they may very well be liable for outcomes."

While not declaring the experimental vaccines to be unsafe, AFD recommends "caution for patients, policymakers and employers."

The AFD White Paper can be downloaded at [https://assets.website-files.com/606d3a50c62e44338008303d/6076e4fd8bde421370729e47\\_Vaccine-PP.pdf](https://assets.website-files.com/606d3a50c62e44338008303d/6076e4fd8bde421370729e47_Vaccine-PP.pdf)

## Statistics

### OCC

From page 1

products," said Heidi Brock, AF&PA president and CEO. "The resilience and commitment of our industry is notable, as is engagement of consumers in the paper recycling process. The result is a consistent and high rate for paper recycling."

AF&PA said paper recycling helps extend the life of fiber, creating new sustainable paper-based packaging products and advancing the circular economy.

"Paper recycling continues to be a success, and the U.S. paper industry plays an essential role," Brock said. "Our industry leadership remains strong with \$4.1 billion in manufacturing infrastructure investments, announced, planned or made, from 2019-2023, to continue the best use of recycled fiber in our products."

The 22.8 million tons of OCC consumed

by U.S. mills represented a 4 percent improvement compared to 2019. In addition to the domestic consumption, 9.6 million tons of OCC was exported from the U.S. in 2020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, for a total consumption of almost 32.4 million tons of U.S. generated OCC in 2020.

With a 10 percent decline in U.S. exports of OCC in 2020 relative to 2019, overall consumption of U.S. generated OCC dropped by a half percent last year.

Record domestic mill consumption in 2020 topped the previous record of 22.6 million tons - set in 2018 - by less than 1 percent.

Overall OCC consumption in 2018 totaled a record 35.1 million tons, including 12.5 million tons exported. Overall consumption dropped by 6 percent from 2018 to 2019, and other half percent last year relative to 2019.

Domestic OCC consumption accounted for more than 70.3 percent of overall OCC use in 2020, with less than 30 percent of the material being exported, according to data from AF&PA and the Census Bureau. The domestic share was the highest since 2010, when 70.4 percent of recovered OCC was consumed domestically.

## Quality

### CFRA

From page 1

website is Graphic Packaging International, one of the largest users of recovered fiber in the U.S. and a leading producer of coated recycled paperboard and other paperboard products.

Members will be able to display the CRFA logo, indicating that they maintain consistent quality standards as determined by the purchasing mills. Each load shipped to a mill will contain a QR code.

Using a mobile device, a receiver of a problematic shipment can scan the QR code and open a report through which he or she can report quality concerns to the supplier. Reports of quality issues also will be tracked by CRFA. Too many unresolved quality reports will ultimately result in the termination of a supplier's membership, Gold said.

The association doesn't intend to create quality standards or arbitrate disputes. The QR code system will apply only to shipments made within North America, Gold said.

"Eventually, we may have awards or a listing of the top 10 companies to recognize companies that provided good quality paper," Gold said. "We want everybody who wants to be a part of this to do what's right for this industry. Mills need clean material and they want to deal with suppliers who send it to them. This will make it easier to identify those suppliers. They'll be able to display the (CRFA) logo on their stationary and websites. Their participation will show people that they care about the quality of paper they are creating."

Gold, president of The Gold Group Recycling Consultants LLC, has been involved in the paper recycling industry for more than 40 years with the Newark Group and North Shore Recycled Fibers in the Boston area.

He is a past president of the Paper Stock Industries Chapter (PSI) of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) and a former chairman of the American Forest and Paper Association's (AF&PA) Paper Recovery executive group. Jones, of the KCS Group LLC – an Indiana-based paper recycling and document destruction service – previously was sales manager of recovered fiber at Hartford City Paper (Hartford City, Ind.) and worked in procurement for Rock-Tenn Co.

The other CRFA founders are Seth Mote, of Olympic Wire & Equipment and Kristian Buur, of Bramidan USA.

"Coming from a paper company that had 14 mills, I think this is something that will be very helpful to mills," Gold said.

To encourage participation, Gold said, the annual fee to join will be only \$225 for suppliers and \$425 for mills. Associate memberships for equipment vendors and other companies also are available.

Gold said interested parties can test the QR code system and get a free trial.

For more information, visit <https://cleanrecoveredfiber.org>.

## Mills

### Turkish mill to expand containerboard production

The Voith Group said it has received an order to supply a complete paper production line based on recovered old corrugated containers (OCC) to Modern Karton, in Turkey.

The high speed PM6 will be designed for production of up to 704,000 short tons of cardboard base paper per year and will strengthen Modern Karton's leading position in the market, Voith said.

The machine is expected to be operational by spring 2023 and will expand Modern Karton's manufacturing capacity to about 2.2 million tons annually.

Voith installed an earlier machine - PM5 - at Modern Karton in 2015.

The scope of supply for PM6 comprises Voith's broad full-line supplier portfolio, from the BlueLine stock preparation including the wet end process, the XcelLine paper machine and a VariFlex Performance winder with SmoothRun vibration damping and TwinDrive double unwind, Voith said.

The key feature of the BlueLine stock preparation is the IntensaDrum Duo drum pulper and its complex feeding system, which can process 3,300 tons of raw material per day.

Voith also will supply the complete reject and sludge system, in which up to 550 tons of residual materials can be treated per day.

Modern Karton Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S. is headquartered in the town of Ergene (Corlu) in the European part of Turkey, 100 kilometers northwest of Istanbul. Established in 1978,

Modern Karton is the largest manufacturer of packaging paper in Turkey and one of the biggest in Europe. It has an annual production volume of more than 1.1 million tons on the basis of completely recycled fibers.

### Mondi begins white top linerboard production

The U.K.-based Moni Group said its #19 paper machine at Ru•omberok, in Slovakia, has begun delivering Kraft Top White, an innovative and sustainable new recycled containerboard grade, to customers in Europe. Kraft Top White offers strength, printability and on-shelf appeal of a white fresh fiber top layer, with a recycled fiber bottom layer.

The new machine, with a production capacity of 330,000 short tons per year, is part of Mondi's \$370 million investment to upgrade the mill and further reduce its environmental footprint. The use of more than 220,000 tons of paper for recycling from Slovakia per year supports the circular economy by keeping materials in circulation and preventing waste, Mondi said.

Mondi said state-of-the-art paper technology increases strength while reducing weight, making Kraft Top White a compelling solution for the growing European white top liner market for use in shelf-ready packaging, point-of-sale displays, trays, e-commerce packaging, consumer durables and other customized packaging applications.

The fully integrated pulp and paper mill has undergone major upgrades including an automatic warehouse storage area for end products, a recycled paper line, a recycled storage area.

Work was also undertaken to improve the wastewater treatment plant. It now produces biogas as a by-product which is used at the plant's boilers, consequently reducing the mill's use of fossil fuels.



PM19 paper machine at Ruzomberok in Slovakia



Recovered paper market prices  
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