

## Press release

### **The Cartonplast Group published its first comparative life cycle assessment of polypropylene and cardboard layer pads specified by DIN EN ISO 14040/44**

*Recycling is more ecological than throwing away – an advantage of using plastic interlayers for transportation in the container industry.*

Dietzenbach, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015: The Cartonplast Group published its first comparative life cycle assessment of polypropylene and cardboard layer pads specified by DIN EN ISO 14040/44. This scientifically sound study identified "durability" as the most important factor in reducing environmental impact regarding plastic layer pads and their use for transport packaging in the container industry.

About 10.8 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are avoided – which is 67% lower emissions of greenhouse gases over the entire life cycle of a plastic interlayer. A polypropylene layer pad has significantly better results regarding the environmental impact than the corrugated cardboard alternative interlayer which was also examined.

CEO, Joachim Kreuzburg, commented on today's publication: "For a transport and logistics company like Cartonplast it was an ambitious endeavour to set up this comparative LCA. Our project team has done a very good job with the compilation and organisation of the data in an interesting and readable report. In the long term we strive for better service for our customers and our environment. We believe that only in this way our success as a market leading company in Europe will continue. I am sure that our study is very well positioned in our partner and customer base as well as throughout the field. Managing Director & CSO, Michael Heikenfeld added: "quality, durability and reliability in the pool system are three important cornerstones of our polypropylene layer pads. Our first LCA should serve as a clear aid to decision-making for the use of plastic layer pads for transport in the container industry. We want to use them to describe and present the Cartonplast-Pool system in new markets as a sustainable business model."

The LCA study was conducted in cooperation with an independent consulting company, the company Sustainserv GmbH (Zürich, Switzerland). In addition the study by TÜV experts was examined and is certified according to the requirements of ISO 14040/44 of the TÜV NORD CERT GmbH environmental verifier.

Sustainserv advised Cartonplast regarding their methodology and data sources to retain the examination's critical standard and to verify the results of this LCA. The results of the scientifically sound examination provide reliable information about the effects of plastic interlayers on the environment as well as its advantages.

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Paul Schnabl, Consultant of Sustainserv adds to this: "The cooperation between Cartonplast and Sustainserv is based on our shared commitment to sound, detectable work. This comparative LCA was set up in accordance to applicable ISO-standards and following from that was critically verified by TÜV NORD CERT GmbH environment expert. Therefore these results carry the TÜV official seal and are verified."

The LCA study records the environmental impact with a systematic comparison of products throughout the entire life cycle of the layer pads which are used for transportation in the container industry. It provides information to optimise the relevant environmental impact throughout the supply chain and provides a summary of all product data. In addition all product features are analysed, such as which one has the biggest effect on the environment but also on the economic situation of a company.

In conclusion: the best way to reduce the environmental footprint of transport packaging is by reusing and increasing the durability. Recycling is more ecological than throwing away which is an advantage of using plastic layer pads because their reuse and durability reduces detectable environmental pollution.

In the long term Cartonplast endeavours to increase the influence of its reusable transport products. Especially in the current phase of expansion, sustainable business models like the Cartonplast pool system are in high demand in the global market. The report can be used as an aid to decision-making for new business partners and prospects, who would like to use reusable transport means in their business processes in the future. At the same time it is also a meaningful and vital tool for assessing the environmental performance of Cartonplast polypropylene layer pads.

Excerpts of the product LCA are published on the Cartonplast Homepage at <http://www.cartonplast.com/en/sustainability/comparative-life-cycle-assessment-of-polypropylene-and-cardboard-layer-pads-for-transport>. In order to obtain a printed version of this study please email: [katrin.scheid@cartonplast.com](mailto:katrin.scheid@cartonplast.com).

For more information, please email the company: [katrin.scheid@cartonplast.com](mailto:katrin.scheid@cartonplast.com) or contact Michael Heikenfeld, Managing Director & CSO, [michael.heikenfeld@cartonplast.com](mailto:michael.heikenfeld@cartonplast.com).

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## About Cartonplast Group

With their headquarters in Dietzenbach, Germany and approximately 400 employees in 12 countries, the Cartonplast Group of European market leaders is in the domain of rental and service of plastic interlayers which are used for the transportation of glass, PET-containers and cans of food, beverage, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. In an environmentally friendly pool system the company rents plastic interlayers to over 130 companies of the container industry in 19 countries. The plastic interlayers are used to transport bottles, cans and glasses from the manufacturing of the container to the filling of it. Cartonplast has 13 of its own logistics and service centres where they are collected from the bottling companies, interlayers are sorted and hygienically cleaned. The clean interlayers are protectively packaged against environmental influences and prepared for the next usage.

<http://www.cartonplast.com/home>

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