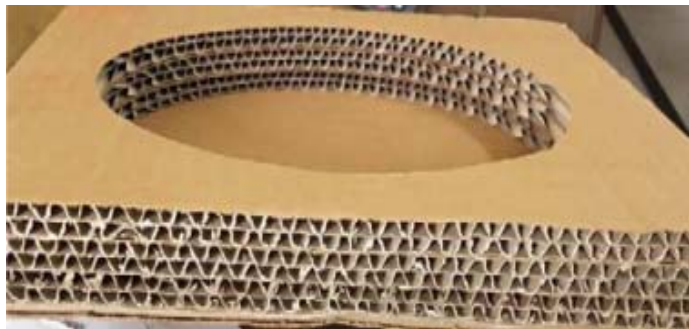


What is new in Packaging for Furniture and Handicraft Exporters

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With growing awareness and demand for ecological concerns importers world wide have become extra conscious and demand on following matters:

(i) **Ban on use of thermocole:** Several companies have already banned totally use of thermocole for getting passed transit tests. It is now possible to develop fitments by help of 7 mm corrugated flutes and soft honey comb board of 20 mm to 30 mm to provide effective cushioning and have been successfully developed and transit tests passed. Following are some photographs of the same.



(ii) **Avoiding use of wooden pallets and crating:** To avoid felling of trees and make packaging eco-friendly many companies have stopped use of wooden pallets and crating. IKEA has been using Corrugated Board Pallets for last more than a decade successfully. Recently companies like William Sonoma have asked exporters worldwide to stop using wooden crating for heavy items of furniture, mirror and stones.

Packaging with support of 30 mm honey comb supported by angle board on all sides have been successfully developed

and luckily this has turned out to be slightly cheaper as it does away with cost of corrugated box, thermocole and wooden crating. A picture of such product is given below:



(iii) **Angle Boards or Edge protectors:** These products are also used extensively internationally to provide better compression strength for glass products and to low strength corrugated boxes and to provide strength to pallets. Some photographs of angle boards / edge protector



(iv) **FSC certified Corrugated Boxes:** Now a days growing awareness for saving trees and forests has compelled importers worldwide to insist on FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified/ marked corrugated boxes. Luckily it is not difficult to source such boxes and also it may not add to your cost.



(v) **RoHS Restrictions / Toxic materials ban:** Though RoHS restriction has been in talk for last several years, but has not been enforced strictly. One should be prepared for this also. The testing per test is around Rs. 3,000 minimum, but mostly the corrugated boxes pass these tests. However for benefit of exporters following is the acceptable levels of restricted

hazardous substances. Luckily most of the corrugated boxes will pass the test areas where you may have to be vigilant are also given after the table:

Maximum Permissible Limits for ROHS Compliance

Lead Pb	100 ppm
Mercury Hg	100 ppm
Cadmium Cd	100 ppm
Cr6 Hexavalent Chromium	100 ppm
Poly Brominated Biphenyls	100 ppm

- Do corrugated box users have to worry about it?
- **Lead has been found in Duplex / Grey Board**
- **Hexavalent Chromium has been detected in adhesive.**
- Areas to be vigilant
 - Using Duplex / Grey Board
 - Using adhesives
 - Using ink
 - Use of staples.