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INSIGHTS

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Recycling—No Longer a Niche Market



Much has changed from the days when recycled paper was considered a niche market. Recycling is now an integral part of daily life for many people and recycled paper is an integral part of the paper chain, on an international scale. The electronic revolution has also led to increased use of white papers in household streams as printers become standard in homes.

One-third of the 600 million metric tons of materials processed by the recycling industry annually is traded internationally. The global recycling industry (plastics and metals as well as paper) employs 1.5 million people in more than 50 countries and generates annual revenue exceeding $160 billion.

Apart from good economic reasons, a major force in this drive to recycle comes from political and public pressure to reduce the amount of used paper landfilled as waste. The United States has nearly reached its 50% goal with approximately 45% of the paper Americans use being recovered for domestic recycling, export and other uses.

What is it used for? Here's the breakdown:

- 44.8% used to make containerboard
- 21.7% used for other paperboard
- 10.8% used for newspapers
- 10.7% used for tissue
- 6.5% used for printing/writing papers

The balance is used in the construction, packaging, and specialty grades of paper.

At ChemStation, we're concerned about the ecology and the wasted landfill space being used for paper. That's why we choose to use recycled paper whenever possible. Are you doing your part? ■

10 Costly OSHA Mistakes

Two attorneys associated with an Atlanta labor and employment firm have been working with a number of agricultural and food processing clients. They have noticed a number of seemingly benign mistakes that companies repeatedly make when dealing with issues relating the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). They note that on a day-to-day basis, these mistakes don't seem to affect your bottom line, eventually, they can cost you, either in fines or attorney's fees, or both. Following are the 10 mistakes they cite:

1. *Having a great written program just collecting dust* (written programs are the beginning of compliance…but you have to remember to implement them, too)

2. *Believing that an investigator is there to help you* (OSHA compliance officers come to your facility for one reason: to find problems and items to cite you for)

3. *Not understanding your rights* (there are only two ways OSHA inspectors can get into your plant; by getting a warrant, or by your consent)

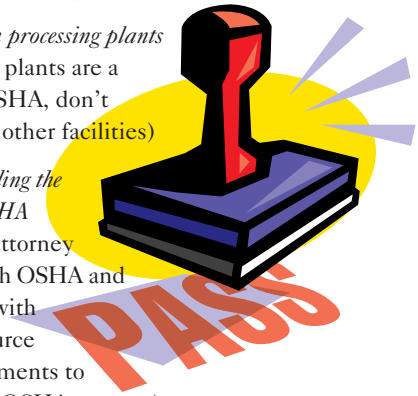
4. *Failing to document investigation procedures* (walk around with the inspector, take notes, ask questions)

5. *Absence of a policy on what to do when an inspector shows up* (have a corporate wide policy on what to do when the government knocks on your door)

6. *Failing to document training* (if you have written policies and programs and you train your employees on it, document it)

7. *Failure to enforce safety rules* (enforce them as vigorously as harassment policies, drug policies and the like)

8. *Relying on so-called "safety experts"* (have someone that you know to be knowledgeable in OSHA matters talk to your safety consultant)



9. *Concentrating on processing plants* (while processing plants are a major target of OSHA, don't forget about your other facilities)

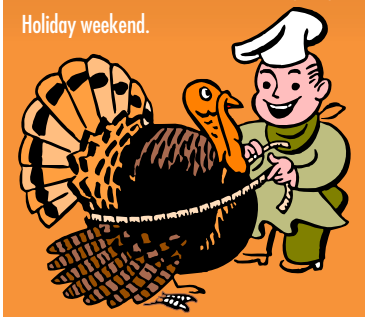
10. *Not understanding the requirements of OSHA* (consult with an attorney who is familiar with OSHA and have them work with your human resource and safety departments to explain just what OSHA expects)

While not meant to be exhaustive, the above list highlights what has been the most common mistakes that employers make when it comes to OSHA. OSHA is not an easy regulatory scheme, and full compliance will take a commitment at all levels of your organization. So, fix your mistakes before they put you in a fix. ■

Source: WATT PoultryUSA

New in November

November begins with All Saint's Day on the first. Another early celebration is November 3, Sandwich Day…which is good because it's also Peanut Butter Lovers Month and the first week in November is National Fig Week…not that you'd want to mix the two together. On November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day. The third week has been set aside by the Children's Book Council as National Children's Book Week. Check the Post Office for new offerings because November is also Stamp Collecting Month. As we near the end of the month, we find that most will be celebrating November 22, Thanksgiving. Please have a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.



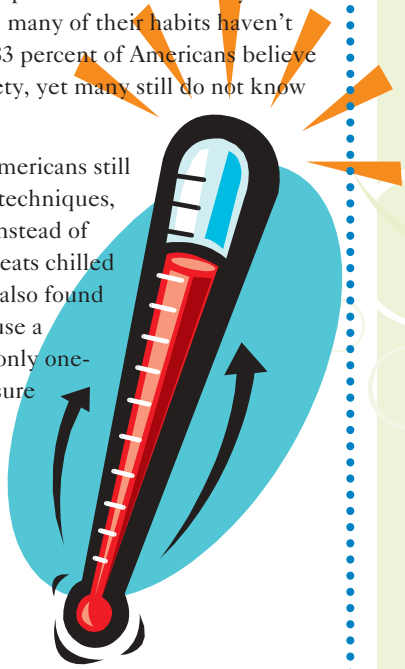
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Food Safety Begins at Home

Tyson Foods, Inc., released the results of its second annual food safety survey. The survey polled more than 1,000 adults on their food handling practices. Although 96 percent of those surveyed remain concerned about food safety, many of their habits haven't changed. The survey also revealed 83 percent of Americans believe they are knowledgeable on food safety, yet many still do not know basic food handling procedures.

According to survey results, many Americans still don't practice proper food handling techniques, such as cleaning with paper towels instead of dishcloths and keeping uncooked meats chilled at proper temperatures. The survey also found that 40 percent of consumers don't use a plastic cutting board for meats, and only one-third use a meat thermometer to ensure meat and poultry are cooked to the proper temperatures. ■

Source: Meat Processing, October 2001





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Soap Box

It was not so long ago that people thought that semiconductors were part-time orchestra leaders and microchips were very, very small snack foods.
Geraldine Ferraro

News is the first rough draft of history.
Benjamin Bradice

Bug, n: An aspect of a computer program which exists because the programmer was thinking about Jumbo Jacks or stock options when s/he wrote the program.

The factory of the future will have only two employees; a man and a dog. The man will be there to feed the dog. The dog will be there to keep the man from touching the equipment.
Warren G. Bennis

Benjamin Franklin may have discovered electricity, but it was the man who invented the meter who made the money.
Earl Wilson

"If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this."…Spencer Silver on the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3-M Post-it® Notepads.

Compromise, n: An agreement whereby both parties get what neither of them wanted.

Television enables you to be entertained in your home by people you wouldn't have in your home.
David Frost

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.
Robert Louis Stevenson

Science, n: An orderly arrangement of what at the moment appears to be facts.