

November 12th, 2009

EPAL issues warning on World pallet appearances

EPAL has warned that World pallets are not exchangeable in its European Pallet Pool, following reports that they are appearing in the UK market.

Earlier this year, the German district court of Erfurt prohibited Falkenhahn AG from offering or selling wooden flat pallets carry the branding 'World' in an oval shape (reference number Az. 3 O 987/08), a mark that has a similar appearance to the 'EUR' and 'EPAL' trademark symbols – also in an oval - which have been used on EPAL Euro pallets for many years

The similarity created the potential to mistake world pallets for euro pallets and the wrong impression that world pallets were exchangeable in the European Pallet Pool. EPAL requested an injunction against Falkenhahn AG at the district court of Erfurt in the summer of 2008, which published its verdict on the 12th March 2009. The ruling prevented the company from manufacturing any more 'World' branded pallets, which it had produced since February 2008.

Paul Davidson, Chief Executive of EPAL for the UK and Ireland said: "Although World pallets are no longer being manufactured, there are still many thousands still in circulation. According to the court's verdict, there is a very real danger of users confusing the oval mark used in the 'EUR' and 'EPAL' trademark with the World pallet symbol.

"We would strongly advise companies that EPAL pool pallets are not interchangeable with World pallets, which are appearing in the UK but do not conform to the same quality standards as EPAL pallets. Based on standardised quality-assured EURO pallets, the 'EPAL system' is a competitive cross-sector open pallet exchange pool and our benchmarks for both production and repair are unrivalled in the market place for their stringency."

EPAL is the largest pallet pool in the world with 350m pallets in circulation and has seen a 60% growth in production throughout mainland Europe in the last three years. Based on this experience there is an opportunity for the UK and Ireland to follow that trend.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

- EPAL is the largest pallet pool in the world with 500 million pallets in use and 70 million added annually.
- The ruling of the German district court of Erfurt was made on 12th March 2009. The court did not allow the application to oblige the company Falkenhahn to delete existing pallet marking which have 'World' in an oval shape, which EPAL submitted at the same time because that falls within the remit of the Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market.
- In the UK EPAL grew by 22% in 2008.
- New research shows that using EPAL pallets can be 25% cheaper than renting pallets.
- EPAL has the toughest quality control in the world, all partners received unannounced visits from independent inspectors at least monthly.
- New size 1000 x 1200 pallet compatible with UK standard distribution.
- EPAL has solutions for all pallet users – importers, exporters and home trade industries.
- For more information about EPAL, call Paul Davidson on 01223 479594, email davidsonpaulj@googlemail.com or visit www.brepal.org.uk

For further information regarding this press release, please contact Sarah Watson at Red Communications on 01480 465953 or at sarahw@redcomm.co.uk