

Board Converting News

An N.V. Publication

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Fusion Paperboard To Close CT Mill

Versailles, Connecticut based Fusion Paperboard on July 23 filed paperwork with the Connecticut Department of Labor saying it would close its Sprague, Connecticut, paperboard mill on September 22, 2014. The mill produces 100 percent recycled, food-grade paperboard.

The Connecticut Labor Department's web site shows that Fusion Paperboard submitted a Federal WARN Act Notice that indicated 145 workers would be affected on the layoff date.

"Despite recent efforts, the operation can no longer be sustained," said Joel Laroche, Chief Operating Officer of Fusion Paperboard in a news release. "We will make every effort to fulfill existing orders and help customers as they transition to alternate suppliers."

The website of local media outlet *The Day* noted the state's Department of Economic and Community Development would require Fusion Paperboard to repay a \$3 million low-interest state loan with a \$150,000 penalty.

According to a Connecticut Department of Economic Development (DECD) spokesperson, agreements typically require businesses to maintain op-

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Cal Box Group Flexes Machinery Muscle

by Jackie Schultz

Chris Widera compares Cal Box Group's business plan to a large unfinished jigsaw puzzle, with edges ready to accept the next best fitting piece. "Our customers define success, and total quality enables Cal Box to complete the puzzle," says Widera, who is CEO of the California sheet plants.



The Mesa plant's new 98-inch corrugator from BHS Corrugated is reportedly the first complete single supplied corrugator in the state of Arizona. Inset, John Widera founded Cal Box Group 35 years ago.

Founded 35 years ago by Chris' father, John, the Cal Box Group of companies consists of five plants serving the industrial and consumer products marketplace. The plants all have different names, such as Cal Box I and II, CB Sheets Inc., Tucson Container Corp., Arizona Corrugated Container Co. and West Texas Container, and all operate as separate profit centers. Total combined square footage is close to 700,000. The company employs more than 300 people.

Speed to market is the Group's hallmark. The plants are strategically

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ASG Worldwide Awarded PPC's One Million Hour Safety Prize

ASG Worldwide's Hendersonville, North Carolina, plant recently earned PPC's revered "One Million Hour" safety award for logging one million consecutive hours without a lost time incident.

"Accruing one million hours of operation without a lost time incident is quite the accomplishment," said PPC Director of Industry Benchmarking, Brian Chaisson. "We're thrilled to honor ASG's vigilant and resourceful team of professionals who do outstanding work, day in and day out."

Recording their last incident in February 2012 and averaging about 50,000 work hours per month, achieving this safety target is especially impressive at such a high-volume and fast-paced plant. To maintain safe working conditions on the shop floor, staff members must remain vigilant and aware of those around them while completing their tasks.

"I'd like to recognize every employee's important role in achieving this milestone," said Andy Reeves, Process Improvement Engineer at ASG's Hendersonville Plant. "We do not take safety lightly here, and I am pleased that our dedication to safe work practices has paid off. Congratulations to the whole team!"

KapStone Reports Progress On 2020 Sustainability Goals

Northbrook, Illinois based KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation recently released its 2013 sustainability report, which shows significant progress toward its 2020

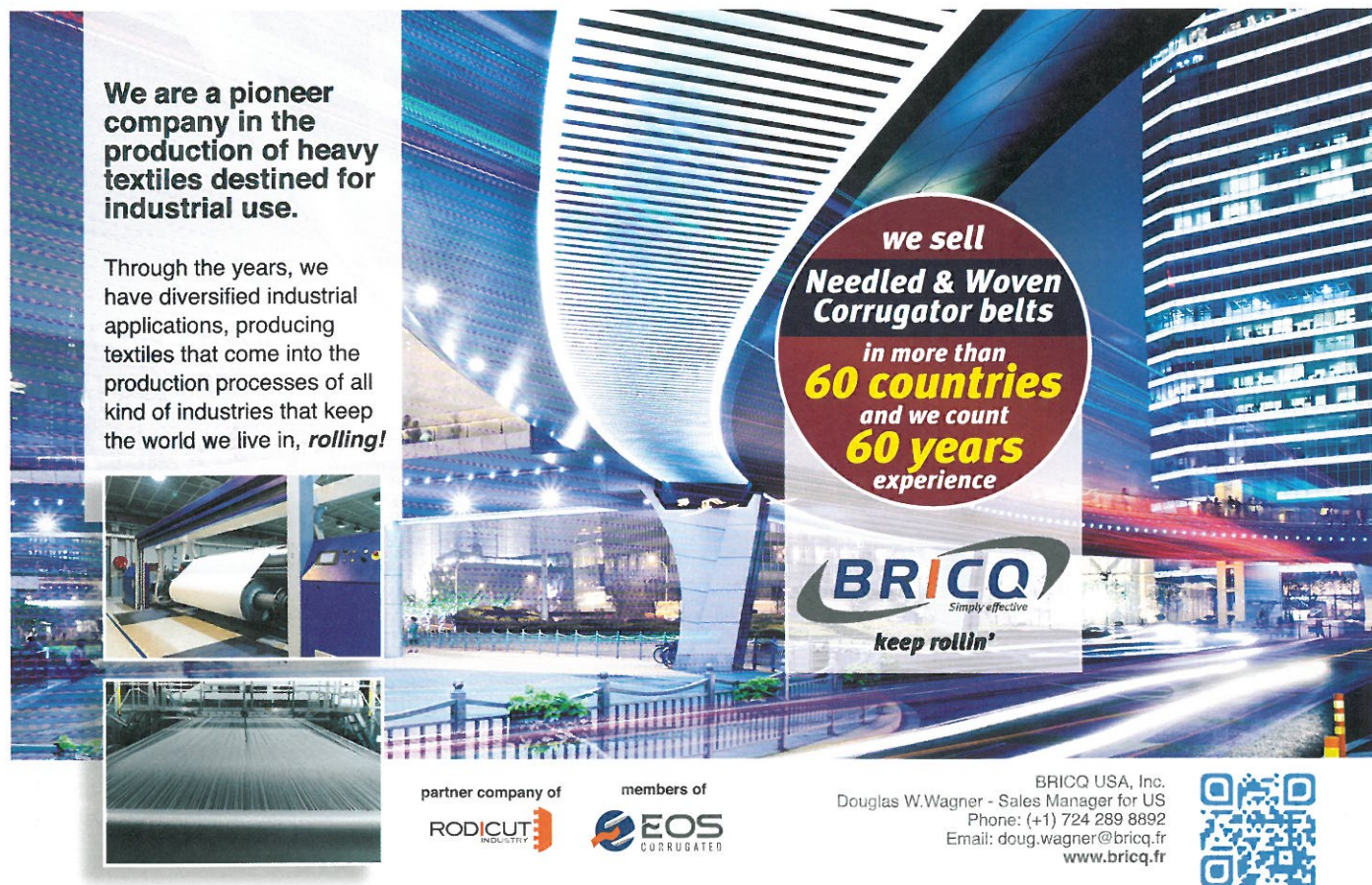
sustainability goals. These goals, which were set based on the company's commitment to social responsibility, extend well beyond applicable laws and regulations mandated by federal, state, and local governmental entities.

The report conforms to rigid and voluntary standards defined by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and uses company performance reported in 2010 as the baseline.

"We are proud of the fact that we are setting the bar high for ourselves in categories that are of importance to our customers and society in general," said KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation President, Matt Kaplan. "We are committed to doing the right thing for our customers, our planet, our people, and the communities where we operate. We believe that by doing the right thing in any one of these areas, we're doing the right thing for all of them."

Three areas are addressed in the report: 1) producing environmentally-sound product solutions for customers; 2) protecting the environment in all of its manufacturing and business processes; and 3) ensuring a better future for employees and communities.

In the area of environmentally-sound product solutions, the company reports that it produces innovative paper grades with significant environmental advantages. In regards to environmental protection, the company reports that it achieved 75 percent of its goal to have SFI and PEFC Chain-of-Custody (CoC) certification for all mill division operations. In the category of people and community, the company reports a 37 percent reduction in workforce injuries since 2010, which is more than 50 percent of its 2020 goal.



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