

The experiences of collection and use of paper for recycling at Hamburger Hungaria Ltd. 2008–2013

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Summary:

Activity of Prinzhorn Group in Hungary supporting the selective waste collection involves the following environmentally and energy-friendly cycle: Complete and effective paper recovery from waste collection, through paper making by using the recovered paper collected, to producing paper-based packaging materials. Selective collection of paper from household procures with Duparec Ltd waste collector company. Hamburger Hungaria Ltd. is manufacturing the corrugated base paper. Corrugated packaging products are made by the Dunapack Magyarország Packaging Ltd. Hamburger groups all over Europe are supporting the selective waste collection with their paper factories and packing plants. Turnover of their Hungarian companies exceeding 380 million Euro while its share of Hungarian paper production is about 85%.

The group's expansion and its increased efficiency constantly could be observed after the privatization in 1990 what become even more dynamic between 2009 and 2015 with additional investments for 600 million Euro.

The use and demand of waste paper has increased steadily since 1995 in the Hungarian companies of Prinzhorn Group which motivated the establishment of their own waste paper collection company.

From midyear 2009 to increase the efficiency of the paper making as a new investment, the paper machine No 7 was built. Thanks to this machine in Dunaújváros Hungarian waste paper processing capacity has been increased by the end of 2013 about 740.000 tonnes. This exceeds more than twice the capacity of selective collection of packaging in Hungary. The main task is to increase the volume of selectively collected paper for recycling supporting the collection and recovery for the achievement of the EU objectives.

The support of the collection and recycling of paper has been changed in Hungary since 2012 while government owned company National Waste Management Agency (NMWA) (OHÜ) has been involved into the organisation of supporting. The difficult start significantly burdened the market participants primarily because of the retarded tender process and the slow formation of the legal background. The subsidy rate for industrial waste is continuously decreasing, while that of for household waste remains unchanged, however, in the same time, the collection by public service was dropped by 25%.

Only 18.5% of the new green tax has been recycled for supporting the collection process. The continued restructuring of the public service sector aims the improving of efficiency, sometimes moves in the right direction. The household waste collection has still significant potential while it must be continuously increased taking into account the recommendations of market participants and professional organizations. The new green tax system and the reorganised support system of the waste collection required from the participants of the market their adaptation to changed conditions.

In this respect the following measures were introduced at the Hamburger Hungária Ltd.:

New price categories, which requires the establishment of separate processing of different and more expensive price range and new moisture measurement method with setting up a new gate operated with active microwave for moisture measuring.

Through new EN 643 standard "soften" the restrictions (1% to 1.5%) for non-paper material.

Introduced new sub-categories for some quality classes have only negligible practical significance.

Recycling of combined packaging materials (e.g. beverage boxes), from which high quality secondary raw materials could be gained, are not yet dissolved in Hungary. To resolve this issue with governmental engagement, Hamburger Hungária Ltd started the conciliation talks with the OHÜ.