

Empac study shows carbon footprint improvement of the steel food can

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Empac, European Metal Packaging, and its supply chain partners, recently completed a study on the environmental performance of the iconic 3-piece 425ml steel food can. The study shows that the can's carbon footprint has been reduced, on average, by an impressive 30% between the period 2000-2010. This result proves that the metal packaging industry continues to achieve more with less, being thus aligned with the European Union's resource efficiency roadmap and the need for effective resource conservation.

This compelling reduction in the CO2 footprint has been achieved through a consistent decrease in the average can weight delivered to customers, combined with a substantial increase in steel recycling rates. Since 2000, the average can weight has dropped by some 6% while the average European recycling rate for steel has improved by 44%. Further double-digit savings can be achieved, in the medium term, with advances in both weight reduction and steel recycling rates. This study illustrates how European food can manufacturers have successfully decoupled economic growth from environmental impact.

Today, food cans are lighter, safer, stronger and even more sustainable, and will continue to play a key and responsible role in the food chain.

Data for this study was provided by the following three entities:

- *APEAL - the Association of European Producers of Steel for Packaging*
- *Soudronic - a leading Swiss manufacturer of slitters, can body and drum welders, bodyformers and end making systems*
- *TNO - the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research using the Empac environmental scorecard*

Join us

Empac offers companies, large and small, the opportunity to take part in shaping Empac programmes. All can manufacturers and suppliers to the metal packaging industry can become members at any point in the year. All members' contributions go directly to the promotion and defence of the industry. For further details, please contact info@empac.eu.

Metal is forever - infinitely recyclable with endless possibilities

About Empac:

Empac is tasked with defending and promoting the rigid metal packaging industry in Europe by communicating on the sustainability and the many unique advantages of metal packaging. The organisation provides information and support to its members and regulatory bodies in the European Union and disseminates best manufacturing practice and guidelines through technical committees

Press Release



comprising acknowledged experts in their field. The industry comprises more than 200 companies and 70,000 employees producing in excess of 100 billion units a year. In 2010, steel packaging reached a record 72% recycling rate in Europe, with a growing number of countries achieving in excess of 80%.

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