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New ISO standards published, putting the environment at the heart of packaging design

Standards (ISO 1860x), published in December 2012 by the International Standardization Organization (ISO) ensure environmental concerns are taken into account at the design stage of packaging.

The advent of the standards means there are now globally applicable guidelines that will minimize the environmental impact of packaging at the same time as facilitating international free-trade.

All aspects involved in the design of packaging are accommodated within the standards, from the materials used to the potential for reuse and ultimately recycling.

With the standards come a number of key benefits:

- The potential for cross-border barriers to trade are reduced as nations are less likely to develop their own regulations
- The risk of disputes resulting from a variety of national laws and regulations is reduced
- Common concepts and definitions, applicable internationally, have been introduced
- For developing countries these standards provide a crucial template that can be built upon to define national regulations
- For developed countries the standards support the simplification of the supply chain across international borders
- Companies wishing to place their environmental responsibility at the heart of the business can now demand suppliers adhere to the internationally recognized standards

For further information visit:

http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards_development/list_of_iso_technical_committees/iso_technical_committee.htm?commid=52082

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