Packaging has served as a scapegoat in many discussions about environmental protection, whereby there is a tendency to forget just what packaging is required to do. The more than 4,000 billion packaging units produced worldwide (2011) protect goods enabling them to be transported. Something which is taken for granted in the industrial countries of the western world where it is often also regarded as a necessary evil. But for threshold and developing countries, this protection is urgently required in order to ensure sufficient supplies for people. According to the Safe Food Initiative, the annual losses in food accounting for 1.3 billion tons can only be countered by the use of efficient and intelligent packaging solutions which are gentle on resources. Therefore it spoils nothing striking a blow for packaging.

Particularly in the food (45% share of packaging volume) and beverages industry (28%), packaging plays a key role. It not only protects food from spoiling, it also ensures the safety thereof from production through storage to distribution to consumers. It is of economic and ecological significance and ultimately represents a cost factor in terms of production. It is therefore a common concern on the part of the food and beverages industry as well as packaging manufacturers and their suppliers to continually develop and optimize packaging solutions – from economic, ecological and consumer protection aspects.

One such successful example is represented by the development of PROVALIN, the first and to date only closure sealing compound, without PVC and plasticizers for all types of metal closures. The demanding and sophisticated material recipes are suitable for contact with food in accordance with EU and FDA guidelines and fulfills the demands of freedom of DEHP and other dubious plasticizers. The recipe of the compounds is based on Thermoplastic Elastomers which can be melted and brought into the desired shape when heat is applied.

TPE materials are very popular particularly in sensitive and highly-regulated markets as they are capable of complying with the multifaceted requirements associated with a range of statutory guidelines, regulations and specifications. A focus is attributed to minimizing the migration potential as well as highlighting bio-compatibility and sterilizability, for example.

Actega DS started to focus its attention on PVC-free solutions and sustainable production at an early stage. At the joint stand with Eckart, Stand E 16, hall 5 innovative sealants for crown corks, aluminum-, metal vacuum- and plastic closures will be presented.

Editor's Note: This post was shared by a member of the Package Design community. Do you have news to...