



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

"KEY ELEMENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD: ENERGY, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

Contribution of Packaging to Cleaner Production Goals

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Abstract

Packaging industry is faced with challenges of using different strategies to prevent emissions at the source and to initiate continuous preventive improvements of its production processes. However, numerous other industries and services use packaging products which gives packaging products a specific feature. Thus, firms should be aware of modern trends of packaging products. Dematerialization of packaging is a continuous trend which has important role in source reduction but at the same time has detrimental effects on recyclability. However, the latter is still often believed to be one of the most important environmental criteria for packaging in different cleaner production programmes. Considering such dilemmas, two major questions arise with regards to packaging role within the concept of environmental protection and cleaner production. First, how to quantitatively evaluate its environmental impacts and, secondly, to what extent packaging contributes to the reduction of overall (life-cycle) pollution prevention. Namely, protective role of packaging is too often neglected in discussions on packaging and environmental pollution problems. In a paper different aspects of packaging in line with the environment are discussed which confirm that packaging must be viewed in a wider context as usual because not only technological but also demographic and social changes significantly influence its environmental image. This effects not only the production optimization but also the environmental profile of the whole product supply chain.

Keywords: Packaging, environmental impacts, dematerialization, supply chains.
