



Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers
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The Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers (AFPR) is a trade organization representing the expanded polystyrene packaging industry, including raw material suppliers, molders and equipment suppliers in both the U.S. and Canada. AFPR maintains active relationships with major packaging universities to identify and monitor research projects that improve the understanding of expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam cushioning properties and performance.

There are no legislative restrictions or bans on EPS transport packaging in the United States or Canada. All EPS recycling in North America is performed on a voluntary basis. In the U.S., the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees national legislation effecting the environment. The EPA produces guidelines called Environmentally Preferable Purchasing, which provide information for government agencies on the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services.

Further, each state maintains its own governance and can pass laws, and while some states did introduce restrictive measures on packaging in the early 1990's, expanded polystyrene transport packaging was never targeted or affected in any way. Several California cities have enacted local bans on polystyrene foodservice and there is a current bill (SB 568) that proposes to restrict foodservice foam on the state level unless it achieves a 60% recycling rate. Again, these legislative developments do not affect EPS transport packaging.

AFPR provides consumers and businesses with information on recycling for larger volume sources and operates a nationwide mail-back program that is accessible by consumers. Through the support of its members, AFPR has achieved an average recycling rate of twenty eight percent in 2010. In addition, AFPR plays an active role in the technical advancement and research of EPS production and recycling.

Sincerely,

ALLIANCE OF FOAM PACKAGING RECYCLERS

Betsy Steiner
Executive Director