



**LANGSTON  
COMPANIES INC.®**

1100 NORTH 7TH STREET  
WEST MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS 72301

## **PSSMA REPORT TO IOPP TECHNICAL BAG COMMITTEE**

Montreal, Canada / September 29 – October 1

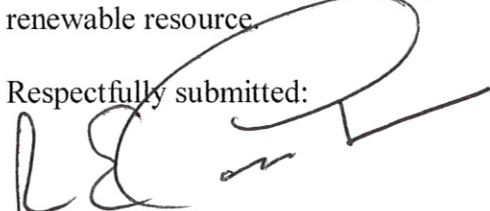
The PSSMA is pleased to submit the following industry update report.

- State of the industry:
  - Total U.S. apparent purchases of multiwall sacks decreased by 3.5% through July 2008
  - US multiwall sack shipments declined by 3.9% through August 2008. All major market segments have been affected by weak economic conditions.
  - Imports of multiwall sacks have declined by 2.5% through July 2008 paced by an 8.8% decline in large (width greater than 40 cm) imported paper multiwall sacks.
  - Imports of laminated woven sacks from China in July declined by 46% from June levels.
- PSSMA Activities
  - The International Trade Commission unanimously determined that the domestic laminated woven sack industry was injured by illegally dumped and subsidized imports of these sacks from China. As a result, the Department of Commerce has issued orders imposing antidumping and countervailing duties on laminated woven sacks imported from China. Combined, these duties will range from 93.9% to 445.5% of the landed value of these products, depending on the Chinese producer company. PSSMA members provided financial support this action.
  - PSSMA has been an active member of the coalition of manufacturers who oppose the California Senate Bill 1313, which would arbitrarily ban the use of some perfluorinated compounds in certain applications, which may contain trace levels of a chemical known as PFOA. These compounds help make paper products grease or water-resistant. Two examples of applications are microwave popcorn and pet food bags. The problem is this ban is totally unscientific: not one of the public agencies in California; Washington, DC; the European Union or elsewhere have restricted use of PFOA; nor has its use or presence been linked to human health concerns. Despite the coalition's efforts, this legislation has been passed by the California legislature. Efforts are now focused on obtaining a gubernatorial veto.
  - PSSMA is working with the American Forest & Paper Association and others to address sustainability in paper products, including multiwall sacks. The industry is conducting the analyses necessary to determine the "carbon footprint" of various converted paper packaging products.

- PSSMA will conduct its Annual Meeting November 6-9, 2008 in San Diego, CA. For the meeting details, including the agenda, visit [www.pssma.org](http://www.pssma.org). Companies supplying materials or services to the US multiwall industry are invited to become associate members of the organization. Associate members receive detailed industry statistics and may participate in industry meetings and activities such as the upcoming Annual Meeting. This is an excellent way to become more involved in the multiwall industry. For more information, contact Dick Storat, PSSMA President at 610-282-6845.

The PSSMA is proud to be a continuing and sustaining packaging supplier to the many industries which we serve. The multiwall bag provides a strong, economical and durable container which has the capability of billboard advertising manufactured from a renewable resource.

Respectfully submitted:



R. E. Langston