Flight Group is a New Zealand-based, privately-owned business specialising in two diverse areas: plastics and timber. The plastics manufacturing plants are located in Wellington, New Zealand; Adelaide, Australia; and Romsey in the UK. The forestry and timber processing businesses are based in Marlborough, New Zealand.

The two business sectors are different but Flight has a common commitment to improving the sustainability of its operations.

Flight’s sawmill and forestry estate of plantation radiata pine produce high grade timber and logs from a renewable resource for export around the world. As the trees grow they naturally absorb CO$_2$ from the atmosphere and act as an effective carbon sink.

Whilst plantation forests are renewable, plastics are manufactured using fossil fuels. However with the latest technology, plastic packaging and other products can now be manufactured from recycled plastics. In 2009 Flight installed extrusion equipment at its UK plant which manufactures over 75% of its volume in recycled PET plastics (RPET) used in food packaging sold in UK supermarkets nationwide. Flight is now bringing similar technology to New Zealand which will further enhance Flight’s environmental profile.

Who we are

In a survey conducted by Horizon Research in 2012 as part of a feasibility study which received funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund, there was an 87% importance rating for buying packaging which is made from recycled materials.

Why switch to recycled PET (RPET)?

In a survey conducted by Horizon Research in 2012 as part of a feasibility study which received funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund, there was an 87% importance rating for buying packaging which is made from recycled materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance Rating</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither important nor unimportant</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly important</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not important at all</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why buy RPET from overseas?

There is no wash plant which processes recycled PET for food packaging in New Zealand. The first step to demonstrating the need for onshore recycling facilities is to meet demand here in New Zealand for packaging made out of recycled PET (RPET). Flight’s investment in an extrusion plant to manufacture RPET food packaging is the first step in the journey to develop an onshore solution for New Zealand’s PET plastics.

Is RPET safe for use with food?

Flight will utilise a layer of virgin resin on both sides of the sheet to guarantee its food compliance (see diagram below). This meets the standards required in Europe and USA and is consistent with NZ requirements. RPET resin for packaging in NZ must meet Australia and New Zealand Food Standards and comply with the relevant regulations for new plastics materials as set out in the USA’s FDA Code of Federal Regulations and the relevant European Union Directives.

FAQs

Why not just import ready-made RPET sheet for food container production?

There are 2 key reasons why processing the RPET here in NZ makes better sense:

1. Security of Supply & Flexibility

Ready-made RPET sheet ex Asia typically comes only in full container lots, on a 6-10 week lead time. Flight can respond considerably faster to changing customer requirements by making the RPET sheet on-demand right here in NZ, at the exact size and volume needed, from our locally held stockpile of RPET flake.

2. Quality Control

Flight will have control of the RPET flake source (where it comes from) and will directly control the all-important application of the food safe virgin PET skin layers.

Diagram of the multi layer product

Will RPET compromise the quality of my packaging?

RPET packaging can be used without any compromise to performance, storage stability or durability.

Contact details

Keith Smith
General Manager
+64 4 576 2344

Patrick O’Donoghue
National Sales Manager
+64 9 265 1308

Flight Plastics Ltd
75 Wainui Road, Gracefield
PO Box 38-252
Wellington Mail Centre
Wellington, New Zealand
www.flight.co.nz