

Pharmacy prize for „environmental friendly“ blister



The pharmaceutical company Recip has been rewarded by Apoteket AB (the Swedish state-owned pharmacy chain) for Reliv paracetamol tablets in blister pack.

The jury's motivation for the reward reads as follows:

„The polypropylene blister pack contributes to environmental benefits to the society, compared to older, conventional packs made of aluminium and PVC“.

Recip

Recip is a privately owned Swedish pharmaceutical company with its own development and manufacturing. Recip also does contract manufacturing for other companies under the name Recipharm. Recip has more than 50 different products, primarily pharmaceutical products (ethicals and OTC products) but also some food supplements and herbal medicinal products.

The focus is on Preventive Care and Cough & Cold. Preventive Care products include combined vitamin and mineral supplements, individual vitamins and minerals and fiber products. The company employs about 400 people in several facilities in Stockholm, in Strängnäs and in Höganäs.



RECIP AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Strategic work with environmental issues has been an integral part of our operations since Recip was founded in 1995. The first environmental policy was drawn up in the spring of 1995. At the same time a decision was made to seek certification in accordance with ISO14001 for an environmental management system for the entire company. Recip's entire operations were certified in May of 1997.

Structured environmental work yields long-term results. It is also important to improve environmental aspects of individual products. One good example of environmental improvement is the change from aluminium / PVC to polypropylene in the blister package of our product Reliv (paracetamol). In order to show the benefit of this change in packaging material a Life Cycle Analysis was made in 2001. The LCA showed there is a big difference between the new and old Reliv product, on behalf of the new Reliv.

One major reason for this is caused by the changes in the packaging material. The change means less use of energy resources but also that the packaging can be recycled in wider extend then before. This is due to the blister pack material being a mono material and not contending more than one fraction of material. By the changes in the product the emissions of greenhouse gases have decreased more than 70%.

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