

# FOILCO & THE ENVIRONMENT

#### What is hot stamping foil?

Stamping foil is a dry, solvent free process that uses the minimum amount of energy to deposit a metallic or pigment effect onto packaging. There are no emissions created during the process.

Polyester film is used as the carrier as it is the lightest weight stable film we can use for the process and at a thickness of just 0.012mm.

Foil stamping should not be confused with aluminium foil lamination or metallised film lamination.

During the hot stamping process the polyester film is removed at the time of stamping whereas with laminates they become an integral part of the packaging.

#### **Waste prevention**

Foilco manufacture their foils in various widths as well as offering a cutting service in order to deliver the optimum width & minimise the waste created.

#### Zero foil 2 Landfill

The thin polyester film used as a carrier for the hot stamping foil has a high calorific value. We therefore convert our waste to SRF (solid recovered fuel) to be used in the cement industry.

This is used as a replacement for fossil fuels such as coal. 12 tonnes of polyester film replaces 10 tonnes of fossil fuel.

We encourage our customers to join our Zero foil 2 Landfill initiative so that we can collect the used polyester and add it to our SRF.

More details of this are available on our website.







# FOILCO & THE ENVIRONMENT CONT:

#### Are our foils Vegan?

All of our foils do not contain any animal products, except the KMS & KMP range of pigment foils which contain a small amount of beeswax to aid workability of this product.

#### Are our foils compostable?

The definition of compostable is something that can be used as compost when it decays. Our foils are compostable. This has been determined through our own in-house testing.

Further testing is currently being carried out to comply with EN 13432:2000 for packaging. This will certify that packaging using our foils will compost through industrial, commercial composting within 12 weeks.

#### Are our foils biodegradable?

The definition of biodegradable is a substance or object capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organism.

The difference between compostable & biodegradable is that there is no time frame set for the product to biodegrade. Our foils are biodegradable.

## Is packaging using our foil repulpable?

The definition of repulpable is the process of re-wetting & fiberizing of paper/board to disperse the paper fibers, ink & hot stamping foil into a pulp medium to reproduce more paper/board.

Through our testing, paper/ board that was foiled with our foils with a coverage of 80% could be repulped.

#### Are our foils recyclable?

The definition of recyclable is products that can be collected and remanufactured into new products after they've been used. Most grades of paper are recyclable. Recyclable products do not necessarily contain recycled materials.

Packaging that uses our foils can be recycled.

# What is sustainable packaging?

Sustainable packaging is packaging that, over time, reduces its environmental footprint.

By adding our hot stamping foil to packaging it can increase its reusability, creating a circular economy around the packaging, extending its lifecycle and usability.

### Do our foils comply with Reach?

Current information states that hot stamping foils are considered an "article" and therefore not subject to preregistration or registration.

It is not necessary to register any articles provided that they contain less than 0.1% by weight of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC).

As our foils also meet this requirement, we are pleased to confirm that our foils meet all current REACH requirements.

#### Are our foils light fast?

Lightfastness is the resistance of our foil to fading or colour change due to exposure to sunlight or an artificial light source.

Lightfastness is predominantly governed by the pigment type used in each foil.

Individual tests can be carried out on our foils to meet customer's specific requirements. However most of our foils comply to standard 4.



