



PRESS RELEASE

A good recycling performance for aluminium closures

Across Europe the average recycling rate for aluminium closures is 40 per cent

- Despite their small size, aluminium closures are collected and recycled – either separately with other packaging or together with used glass bottles
- Recycling of aluminium needs up to 95% less energy than its primary production

Düsseldorf, 07 February 2013. Aluminium can be recycled over and over without any loss of quality. This is also true for aluminium closures used for wine, spirits, water and olive oil. Throughout Europe on average 40 per cent of aluminium closures are currently recycled.

The advantage of aluminium closures is that they can be collected either together with the mixed packaging fraction or together with the glass collection stream. The aluminium can be easily extracted from both material streams so that it can be recycled back into aluminium. The national packaging collection and recycling systems in Europe vary considerably as they are dependent on the respective national packaging waste legislation. Depending on the collection and sorting infrastructure in place recycling rates for closures vary and can range from over 80% in Germany to about 40-50% in countries like the UK and Italy. Countries with relatively small market shares might already recycle 20-30% of all aluminium closures.

“Once again we can demonstrate that aluminium is a material with a high functionality in product preservation and with impressive recycling and sustainability credentials. It can be recycled endlessly and the recycling saves up to 95% energy use compared to its primary production, with the corresponding savings in greenhouse gas emissions,” explains EAFA’s Executive Director Stefan Glimm.

“Every additional increase in the recycling rate makes aluminium closures more and more attractive for winemakers and marketers – from the environmental viewpoint as well“, says Stefan Glimm referring to the increasingly robust position of aluminium closures in the sustainability debate.

Despite their small size, aluminium closures collected together with the mixed packaging fraction are readily separated with eddy-current systems. Similar systems are also used to completely separate the closures in the glass packaging fraction from the glass fraction. This is due to the production requirements in glass recycling. The value of the recycled



PRESS RELEASE

aluminium supports the economics of the recycling process of both material routes. Once separated, the aluminium closures go into the aluminium recycling stream for re-melting to be used again for other valuable aluminium products.

The recycling rates are calculated on the basis of publicly available national aluminium recycling rates and market data from EAFA member companies. This data also shows the considerable extent to which consumption volumes and recycling rates vary from one country to another.

The Europe-wide “Aluminium Closures – Turn 360°” information campaign began at the end of 2012 and provides detailed information on the many advantages of this state-of-the-art closure made of aluminium. The campaign is designed to appeal, in particular, to decision-makers in the wine sector, providing “food for thought” regarding resource-efficiency, sustainability and the recycling of aluminium closures.

Further information:

Guido Aufdemkamp

EAFA Director Communication

About the ‘Aluminium Closures – Turn 360°’ campaign:

The ‘Aluminium Closures – Turn 360°’ campaign is launched by the leading European manufacturers of aluminium closures and screw caps organized in the European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA) and supported by the manufacturers of aluminium strip and sheet for closures. EAFA’s members represent more than 80% of the global alu closures production for wine.

About EAFA:

The European Aluminium Foil Association is the international body representing companies engaged in the rolling and rewinding of alufoil and in the manufacture of aluminium closures and alufoil containers as well as of all kinds of flexible packaging. Its more than 100 member companies are based in Western, Central and Eastern Europe. Founded in 1974, it has its roots in associations dating back to the 1920s.