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Aluminium Foil Statistics 2019

Continuing trade turbulence holds back European alufoil deliveries

In common with many other manufacturing sectors the European aluminium foil sector saw a slowdown in demand for its products during 2019, particularly in domestic markets. But the total tonnage delivered, 933,056t, represents only a small 1.0% drop compared to the record levels of 2018 (942,496t), according to the latest figures released by the European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA).

Continuing the trend seen throughout the year, total deliveries to European customers declined 3.1% to 781,320 tonnes. Once again exports showed more resilience, ending 11.4% up at 151,736 tonnes overall. However Q4 figures, often a strong period in recent years, saw overseas demand down 16.7% (32,043t) with domestic orders flat at 185,953t, a fall of 2% on 2018.

Once again production of thinner gauges, mainly used for flexible packaging and household foils, was soft in European markets, ending down 2.6% at 591,720t for the year, and 6,3% lower in the final quarter. However thicker gauges, typically used for semi-rigid containers, technical or other applications, continued to put in a strong performance, finishing the year 2,0% up, at 341.335t delivered, but recording a small decline of 1.2% in the last three months of 2019.

“Given the continuing trade dispute between China and the USA, flat demand in Europe and now the disruption to global trade caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we should be satisfied with such a small overall drop in demand,” said Bruno Rea, EAFA President.

“Prior to the pandemic signs were positive that the trade dispute would be resolved soon. Most European aluminium foil rollers are currently running at full capacity and supplying aluminium foil to the food and pharmaceutical sectors. These depend on aluminium foil’s unique barrier properties, which demonstrates the essential role of the foil industry based in Europe,” added Mr Rea.

The European Aluminium Foil Association (EAFA) is the main trade association, specifically representing companies engaged in the rolling and rewinding of aluminium foil and the manufacturing of semi-rigid alufoil containers and household foil in Europe. With its more than 40 members, the organisation represents the total aluminium foil rolling market in Europe. www.alufoil.org

Further information:

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