Kraftliner vs. Testliner
(from Robert Guide)

The definitions for kraftliner and testliner should have been labeled Kraft Paperboard and Recycled Paperboard. These are the classifications you will find in all AF&PA data bases and reports. The terms kraftliner and testliner are used in the export market.

Based on Schedule B, Vol.I of the U.S. Dept of Commerce publication Statistical Classification of Domestic and Foreign Commodities Exported from the U.S., on page 48-5, kraftliner is defined as "paper or paperboard whose fiber content has no less than 80% fibers obtained by the chemical sulfate or soda processes". Note that there is no mention of recycled or virgin fibers.

Similarly, semichemical fluting paper is defined as containing no less than 65% unbleached hardwood fibers obtained by a semichemical pulping process. Again, there is no mention of recycle or virgin. Clearly, these definitions were developed to exclude mechanical or chemimechanical pulps.

These definitions are a part of the International Harmonized system.

The term testliner appears to be used in the Pacific Rim and refers to papers of different bursting strengths. Because some grades of testliner have lower burst factors than experienced with Rule 41 compliant boards due to their containing high amounts of recycled fibers, the lower grades of testliner have come to be associated with recycled fibers. In fact, some Pacific Rim customers don't even bother to test for burst. They look at a sheet, and if contaminants are visible on the surface, the board is immediately judged to be testliner!