

## 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 chemi-mechanical 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!**