

THINKING AHEAD

Integrity Control Systems offers an innovative range of multi-use packaging solutions that is new to SA and environmentally aware



The ICS/Versapak range of reutilised packaging is practical, easy to use, cost-effective and environmentally responsible

Integrity Control Systems (ICS) is a vibrant 12-year-old enterprise that serves the market across multiple verticals. The need for security seals, bags, totes, labels and tape permeates processes in which products flow and work. Along these chains, products need to be protected against theft, unauthorised access or visibility, compromise, identification, security breach, counterfeiting, temperature fluctuation and violation.

With a genuine passion for what it does, the ICS team has pledged to engage with customers in a manner that confirms the firm's role as a trusted partner – its focus is to serve and the ICS vision encompasses responsibility and sustainability.

SUPERHERO VS SUPERVILLAIN

When low-density polyethylene was first produced in 1933, it changed the world forever. Myriad needs were fulfilled with this

clever formulation. However, while practical and innovative in its diversity of application, this industrial superhero is also responsible for choking up SA's waterways with waste.

According to John Lucas, renowned nature conservationist, youth developer and founder of Explore4Knowledge, more than 80% of the debris extracted from the country's rivers comprises polyethylene derivatives. This waste is affecting the country's aquatic life and, ultimately, its people.

WHAT IS SECURITY PACKAGING?

Security packaging refers to materials and articles that have inherent security features, including tamper-evident adhesive tape, embedded graphics and thermochemical-reactive ink. These deter tampering, thereby mitigating theft and fraud.

While these articles undoubtedly have their place in many channels across market verticals, business leaders are pressed to consider their processes and operations in evaluating where multi-use security

packaging can deliver similar – or even enhanced – control and protection, instead of packaging that is disposed of after merely a single use. Not only does this result in significant financial savings, but it is also highly effective in reducing waste.

'REUTILISE' IS TRENDING

Already a global trend, reutilised packaging has become more prominent in SA over the last decade. PVC-coated nylon-based bags that are tamper-evident and sealable thanks

to an integrated locking chamber and zip utilise a uniquely numbered seal to deliver security and traceability. These are practical, easy to use, cost effective and environmentally responsible.

Once money, documents, keys, valuables, emergency equipment, firearms, pathology samples, vaccines and so on are placed in a bag, pouch, sack or tote and correctly sealed, traceability is guaranteed. A simple visual and tactile inspection of the seal, seams and zip will show whether tampering was attempted or if a breach took place.

WORKING TOGETHER

In 2016, ICS partnered with leading brand Versapak International to bring their innovative and globally acclaimed range of sealable and reusable packaging solutions to SA. For more than 40 years, Versapak has helped businesses across six continents incorporate green principles in their processes.

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Nature conservationist John Lucas says the debris in SA's rivers, comprising mostly polyethylene waste, is affecting aquatic life

ICS believes it has a corporate and moral responsibility to share this knowledge; teach the market; and promote solutions that reduce the volume of plastic reaching rivers, dams and landfills. The company has undertaken to illustrate how people and businesses can thrive when they reutilise.

Versapak uses specially formulated materials to deliver unparalleled performance. Its range of bags and holders are designed to work hard in repetitive and unyielding environments.

The seal's design reduces jamming in the locking chamber, which also extends the life of the bag, tote or holder. In fact, Versapak is so confident of the quality of its product that it offers a five-year guarantee, including fair wear and tear. The company boasts many customers who have had bags in working service for more than 20 years.

With such loyal and hard-working products, landfill waste is measurably reduced.

ICS' vision is to convert customers to the Versapak brand and its multi-purpose solutions, instead of using traditional throwaway, tamper-evident stoploss bags and disposable cardboard containers and paper envelopes.

The next phase will comprise setting up receptacles in high-volume seal usage areas that can containerise the used seals, which will be collected by ICS and recycled – reducing plastic waste even further.

REUTILISE AND THRIVE

The product speaks for itself and the operational benefits are manifold, including high-quality workmanship, enhanced security, sleek design and proven functionality.

The changeover need not be laborious. Should a company choose to switch from disposable to reusable, the business process will drive the change. Meanwhile, moving from a supplier that already offers



Versapak's range of reusable packaging and seals has a five-year guarantee

a version of a reusable packaging, opting for ICS/Versapak could well result in hundreds if not thousands of PVC bags no longer being discarded.

To further address this legitimate concern, ICS established Patchwork Smile – an empowerment initiative that aims to uplift local communities by collecting and reworking end-of-life products into everyday items that can be used by school children. These reworked products are then donated to schools and communities elected by the company that made the switch from a bag system to the ICS/Versapak solution.

The innate longevity of PVC is optimally utilised to continue 'living' in these articles in well-deserved hands.

It is a great way for companies to bring about 'material change' by merely switching a product.

Patchwork Smile is a simple concept with big plans – it's bold and morally compelling,

and hasn't been done before in the industry. Its brainchild is ICS MD Claudia Coetzer, who was inspired by John Mattone after attending a talk he gave at a convention in Johannesburg. As an acclaimed speaker, executive coach and leadership authority, Mattone's pivotal message, namely 'think different and dream big', had a massive impact on Coetzer's strategy.

'A rapidly growing business driven by the right vision and leadership can reach far and make material change. Business leaders with a conscience will be enthused to pledge their collaboration and share the energy of this exciting initiative,' says Coetzer.

Several banking enterprises as well as gaming and leisure organisations already share this vision, and ICS is proud to have engaged with leading SA retailer Pick n Pay, whose significant green message touches South Africans in all walks of life, every day. 

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