

## Press Release



### Optimal and sustainable use of containers

Zeller+Gmelin relies on reconditioning of used drums and containers

**Conscientious handling of the environment and resources as well as responsibility towards future generations are elementary components of Zeller+Gmelin's corporate philosophy. Recycling and the return of used raw materials and industrial packaging to the economic cycle make a significant contribution to increasing resource efficiency, conserving natural resources and ultimately to securing a common future. The sustainable use of reconditioned drums and IBCs (intermediate bulk containers) is therefore a matter of course for the lubricant experts at the Swabian site in Eislingen, which has been climate-neutral since 2020.**



The reconditioning of sheet steel and plastic drums as well as IBCs is currently the most environmentally friendly way to return industrial packaging to the recycling loop. Natural resources can thus be conserved in the best possible way and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are also minimised. "Many valuable resources are lost through conventional disposal. Reconditioned drums, on the other hand, have a significantly lower CO<sub>2</sub> footprint than newly manufactured drums," says Gülen Ak, Head of Quality, Environmental and Energy Management as well as Sustainability and Compliance Officer at Zeller+Gmelin. "We are making another important contribution to reducing the environmental and energy impact of our company, while our customers will of course continue to receive high-quality and reliable packaging from us."

#### Two thirds less greenhouse gases with cleaned IBCs

Reconditioned containers save thousands of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. A US study conducted by Ernst & Young in 2014 showed that 67 per cent less carbon dioxide are emitted when washing a combination IBC than when manufacturing a new container. When replacing the inner container of an IBC (rebotling), the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are still 20 per cent lower. "An inner container exchange is necessary when cleaning is no longer possible or the container has reached the legally prescribed maximum period of five years," emphasises Gülen Ak.

In the case of steel industrial containers, the environmental and energy balance speaks a similarly clear language: anyone who has lidded drums reconditioned by washing saves an average of 61 per cent greenhouse gases, while the figure for a bung drum is still 36 per cent. "At Zeller+Gmelin, we therefore consciously pursue the goal: less disposal through recycling," the environmental officer



continues. "Against the backdrop of rapid climate change and rising global warming, this is an urgently needed and important step in the right direction."

## **Less CO2 with consistently high packaging quality**

For example, in 2020 alone, the lubricant experts at Zeller+Gmelin saved 3,608,448 kg of CO2 by using reconditioned packaging compared to the use of virgin material.



The reconditioned drums are specially processed and are comparable in quality to a newly produced drum. For this purpose, Zeller+Gmelin works together with professional and certified reconditioning companies. After reconditioning, each individual barrel is subjected to a strict quality inspection. "This ensures that only technically flawless products are delivered," assures Gülen Ak and at the same time points out: "The CO2 savings from our reconditioned IBCs alone could heat a 3-room flat for 1,887 years."



# ZELLER+GMELIN

## **Certified safety for lubricant users**

Thus, reconditioned industrial packaging of the Zeller+Gmelin brand has the same performance characteristics as new packaging and also offers assured protection in the case of hazardous goods approvals. "We take a holistic view of the environmental relevance of our products and services - from development and production to disposal and reintegration into the economic cycle. And all this with consistently high packaging and lubricant quality as well as less logistical effort in procurement and disposal," is Gülen Ak's final conclusion.

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