

# No let-up in innovation at BÜSCHERHOFF

In addition to the launch of several new products this year, BÜSCHERHOFF is also increasing flexitank manufacturing capacity at its Steinfeld factory

Innovation and expansion are clearly in evidence at Steinfeld-based specialist packaging manufacturer BÜSCHERHOFF Spezialverpackung GmbH. This year, in addition to moving into a new production hall, the German company is also introducing several new designs into its product range – including a 40ft flexitank, a new flexitank heating system and a new design of conductive film for 20ft container dry bulk liners.

Although BÜSCHERHOFF has become particularly well-known in recent years for the development of a range of flexitank designs, the company's original business was based on other types of other special film packaging. Its product range includes bags and sacks for bulk solids for 10-50 kg, inner liners for a range of IBCs, drums and Octabins, dry bulk container liners for use in 20ft/40ft containers and injection moulded valves and related fittings.

Its complete range thus offers products from 3 litres capacity to 27,000 litres – and apart from producing this packaging, the company also extrudes its own film for small capacity bags and liners.

#### New flexitank production hall

However, it is the flexitank market which has shown the most rapid growth recently. And, to meet increasing demand, earlier this year, BÜSCHERHOFF moved all its flexitank production into a new hall at its Steinfeld factory, which will be officially opened in June 2010. Flexitank manufacturing is centred at Steinfeld – the company has two other production facilities for its bulk liners and smaller volume packaging, one in Belgium and one in Bosnia.

The new hall in Steinfeld provides enough space for three production lines for three different designs of flexitanks. It will enable the company to manufacture up to 50,000 flexitanks per year, on a one-shift basis.

Together with the construction of the new flexitank production hall, the company is also building a new office reception area, meeting room and



Büscheroff's new design of 40ft, multi-layer, flexitank for use in trailers and containers comprises seven compartments

administration offices. The opening of this hall is thus also providing extra space for the company's production of its dry liners and its inner liners and its injection moulding activities.

#### 40ft flexi

One of the new products which will be manufactured in the new flexitank hall is BÜSCHERHOFF's new design of 40ft, multi-layer, flexitank for use in trailers and containers. Divided into seven compartments, the trailertank flexitank (patent pending) incorporates six baffles, aimed at reducing the effects of sudden acceleration/deceleration. Each baffle incorporates a hole in it to permit the movement of liquid from one compartment to the next, when loading and discharging.

The 40ft flexi can carry volumes up to the maximum payload of a 40ft container, although it is expected to be used for transporting 27,000 litre consignments – especially foodgrade cargoes and other high value products.

When loaded, it has a height of 1.20 metres in the middle and 80cm at the

sides. When loaded into a 40ft container, it has the significant advantage of not touching the side walls, end wall or door of the container. For carriage in a road trailer, one of the regulations is that it must touch the side walls.

The 40ft flexitank is currently being tested on road operations in Europe. Specialist manufacturing equipment is being installed by BÜSCHERHOFF (which designs and builds all its own production equipment), and full production will commence later this year.

#### Heating pads and conductive dry liners

Another new product being introduced in 2010 is a re-usable electrical heating pad system for flexitanks. The system comprises a number of connecting heating pads, which are positioned on the bottom and side walls of a container, thus enabling products to be heated before and after shipment (for loading and discharge purposes). No heating is required for these cargoes during shipping. Cargoes can be



Büscheroff's new film for dry liners includes conductive strips, aimed at avoiding the risk of a build-up of static electricity, leading to possible dust explosions

heated up to a maximum of 60degC, although the normal temperatures are expected to be 40 – 50degC.

As indicated above, one other product recently introduced by BÜSCHERHOFF is a new design of conductive film for dry liners for container. The conductive

strips in the film mean that the risk of a build-up of static electricity, leading to possible dust explosions, is avoided.

In addition to these products, further new designs will be launched later this year.

[www.buescherhoff.com](http://www.buescherhoff.com)



Research and testing of new products is an on-going process at BÜSCHERHOFF



The BÜSCHERHOFF factory in Steinfeld, Germany. As part of its expansion programme, new offices are being opened in June



The new hall in Steinfeld provides enough space for three production lines for three different designs of flexitanks



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