

Paper band communication – FAQs

1. What is changing?

For the first time in our industrial portfolio, we're launching a product that has entirely plastic-free packaging. We're replacing the plastic-coated U-shaped paper inserts and protective polybag that hold 12 pairs of gloves with a paper band that wraps around 12 pairs of gloves instead.

HyFlex[®] shipper cases will still contain 144 pairs of gloves, configured as 12 bundles of 12 pairs, but the gloves will be laid out horizontally in the packing cases, rather than vertically.

2. Why is Ansell changing the packaging?

We've made a pledge to minimize the environmental impact of our packaging and to reduce packaging's use of plastic and paper in our industrial product range by 2026.

Plastic usage is increasing globally, so we need to do our part to reduce plastic wherever we can. Moreover, after consulting with customers, they advised that the gloves' plastic packaging was unnecessary and didn't improve their product experience.

3. What are the benefits of the new paper-band packaging?

Plastic packaging is difficult – and, in some countries, impossible – to efficiently collect and recycle, whereas the new paper band can easily be disposed of into end-users' standard paper recycling schemes, which are usually widely available. Moreover, plastic is made from fossil fuels, but paper comes from trees, a renewable material source.

Currently, each shipper case of 12 bundles of 12 pairs of gloves is packaged with, on average, 102 g of plastic and 239 g of paperboard, which totals 341 g of packaging. By removing the plastic and replacing the U-shaped paper inserts with the new paper band, the primary packaging weight in a 144-pair shipper case is reduced by 70% to around 102 g on average. So, in addition to eliminating all plastic from the packaging, this change also makes the gloves lighter to transport.

We're also no longer enclosing paper Instructions for Use (IFUs) in every 12 pairs of gloves. Instead, we'll include 4 IFUs in every shipper case of 144 pairs. If required, more IFUs in your local language can easily be downloaded from ansell.com. When implemented, this combined change results in 69% of packaging reduction.

4. There is a lot of benefits presented in the different communication materials, can you help better understand them?

THE DIFFERENT PERCENTAGES	EXPLANATION
70% less primary packaging materials*	A result of removing the U-shaped paper inserts and protective plastic polybags and replacement by paper-band.
69% less inner packaging materials**	A result of removing the U-shaped paper inserts, protective plastic polybags and replacement by paper-band, combined with reduction of IFU paper.
Generates 82% less GHG emissions***	A result of removing the U-shaped paper inserts and protective plastic polybags and replacement by paper-band.
Generates 76% less GHG emissions****	Reduction of Green House Gas emissions is a result of removing the U-shaped paper inserts, protective plastic polybags and replacement by paper-band combined with a reduction of IFU .
Saves emissions on every shipper case of 144 pairs of gloves equivalent to a delivery van driving 5 km*****	A result of removing the U-shaped paper inserts, protective plastic polybags, reduction of IFU and replacement by paper-band recalculated with official conversion factors to a more tangible result. (see reference source in the respective materials).
Average pallet-based storage volume reduced by 18%*****	As a result of the inner packaging material removal and reduction, the volume decreased, and we can now use smaller volume shipper cases and adjust their dimensions to best fit the standard pallet sizes.

Herewith a summary of the different saving percentages with explanations.

* Ansell's LCA, scenario analysis, January 2021

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***** UK Government GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting, v1, 2020 ****** Ansell calculation basing on logistics volume utilization software, 2021

5. Will the gloves' performance be affected by this packaging change?

No, not at all. The gloves will deliver the same quality, standards, and innovation that our distributors and customers expect from all our gloves. Over the past year, our R&D, Quality and Product management teams have performed more than 80 tests in line with PPE standards on representative product types and material combinations to check the effect of removing the plastic packaging on the gloves' performance and shelf life. As a result of these tests, we're only changing to plastic-free packaging for products and material combinations where our research confirms no negative impact.

The paper band itself is made of Kraft Liner paper, whose woven fibre content is not less than 80% virgin fibre, so it's light but has a high resistance to tearing and is strong enough to securely hold the 12 pairs of gloves together.

6. When will I see the new packaging?

The newly packaged HyFlex[®] 11-842 gloves are already available in our warehouses in Europe. Meanwhile, the plastic-free packaging will be implemented across 33 more industrial hand protection products as of September 2022 in a phased-out approach.

7. What resources are available to help me understand more about this new plastic-free packaging?

Find out more by reviewing the paper band sales deck and Sustainable Packaging Program glossary, which defines the sustainability terms used on this program.

8. How can I get involved?

Identify your distributors and customers for whom these innovations are meaningful and engage with them about sustainable packaging, such as by supporting the development of a Sustainability Plan for their company's hand and body protection needs.

Where customers and distributors already have sustainability targets, encourage them to become a partner in our sustainability vision: as well as purchasing repackaged products, they can also take part in pilots for future sustainable packaging solutions.

Internally, you can also continue the conversation with your partners on how Ansell can support our customers' sustainable solutions.

Ansell Pr⊕tects[™]

Protecting people, in every respect.

For over 125 years, Ansell has been protecting people, and our ambitions today are stronger than ever. By setting ourselves ambitious goals on protecting our environment, we seek to break new ground. With increased sustainability and ever smarter, more connected PPE, we strive to ensure the safety of workers and the environment we live in. **Thinking of people and planet first.**

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