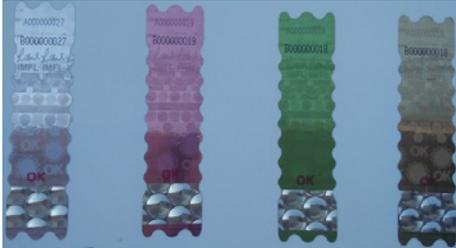


News In Brief

New Adhesive for Indian Excise Labels

HB Fuller – the international adhesives, sealants and speciality chemical provider – recently launched, at Labelexpo Europe, *Swift@melt 1908* – a hotmelt pressure-sensitive adhesive specifically for holographic excise labels for the Indian liquor market.



An example of Indian liquor excise labels.

Melanie Lack, Business Manager for Tapes and Labels at HB Fuller, said: 'we saw an opportunity in the holographic label market in India. In order to tap the market, we started with an existing adhesive product from Europe, which we realised didn't completely suit the application. It lacked the balance of adhesion and cohesion that is required for the application of the holographic label on low surface energy substrates.'

In response to this challenge, HB Fuller's Indian team optimised the product to match the required adhesion and cohesion strength. Furthermore, the ability to die-cut with clean edges was critical in the development of *Swiftmelt 1908*.

PD Satish Kumar, HB Fuller's Strategic Account Manager for India, said 'this *Swiftmelt* grade features an optimum balance of peel, tack and cohesion over a broad operating temperature range and converting performance necessary for the application.'

India represents the largest single market for tax stamps – with 23 out of 29 states using them and the vast majority comprising full-face holographic labels.

ASPA Workshop Targets Excise Professionals

In October, the Authentication Solution Providers' Association (ASPAs) held its second Workshop on Brand Protection Awareness in Hyderabad, India.

The workshop was attended by brand owners, government authorities and industry professionals involved in brand protection, revenue protection, supply chain management, quality control and product packaging. The aim was to generate awareness among stakeholders of the

need to fight counterfeiting, specially in the healthcare, automotive components, FMCG, electronics, excise revenue, and government document sectors.

On this occasion, Mr U K Gupta, President, ASPA said, 'at ASPA, one of our main aims is to develop and strengthen industries' capacity to combat product counterfeits through evidence-based research, education and outreach. Many of our brand-owner partners have shared with us their hurdles in selecting and finding brand protection solutions.'

'To help meet this need, for more than two years now we have been running the nationwide campaign 'Make Sure India' to educate brand owners and consumers about this serious issue.'

Mr Gupta continued: 'in an extension to our campaign, we have recently also announced a series of workshops for professionals involved in tax revenues, supply chain management, quality control and product packaging, providing them with information on the importance of authentication solutions in fighting fakes.'

'Our industry can help government and brands in plugging these loopholes. A brand owner that employs an authentication solution is likely to increase his business by cutting down the counterfeiter's share. This increased business will consequently bring in more tax and duty revenue to the exchequer.'

Brazil Printer a Target for Privatisation

Brazil's cash-strapped government is looking to sell off state assets to raise revenues. One candidate for privatisation is the Casa da Moeda do Brasil, the country's printworks and mint. Founded in 1694 by the King of Portugal, it is the country's oldest state-owned company and is today seen by many as a symbol of the country's sovereignty.

The Casa da Moeda do Brasil is owned by the Brazilian government and operates under the Ministry of Finance. Its current headquarters and facilities occupy a modern 110,000m² complex with three production plants in the western suburbs of Rio de Janeiro. It employs just over 1,000 people and in 2016 had sales of 2.4 billion Brazilian reais (R\$), equivalent to US\$773 million.

As well as Brazilian banknotes and coins, the Casa da Moeda also produces medals, passports, tokens and tax stamps, along with – on occasion – notes and coins for other countries in the region.

Much of its revenue comes from cigarette tax stamps, which are provided to Receita Federal do Brasil, the country's tax authority, under a programme known as *SCORPIOS*.

New Philippines Tax Stamps Delayed Until January

According to *INQUIRER.net*, the Philippines government has pushed back the rollout of its new cigarette tax stamps – with improved security features and new design – to January next year.

'We are improving them but we will be moving the deadline a bit, maybe a few more months to January. There are still some things to be tweaked on security features and things like that,' said Finance Undersecretary Antoinette C Tionko.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) previous target was to introduce the new cigarette tax stamps in October in order to combat the proliferation of counterfeit stamps.

BIR Assistant Commissioner Teresita M Angeles said they were 'still going through the testing of the new stamps' and also 'allowing the manufacturers to test the paper of the stamps.'

Angeles said the new tax stamp will feature the Philippine tarsier, one of the smallest known primates endemic to the country.



The existing design bears the 'butanding' or whale shark.

Since the new stamp will have enhanced security features, it will cost 15 centavos a piece (\$0.003) or two centavos more than the current price, which cigarette manufacturers will be expected to shoulder.