

## European Pallet Association e. V. (EPAL)

PRESS RELEASE

### EPAL pallets to also be marked by inkjet printing in future

**EPAL has decided to allow EPAL pallets to be marked using inkjet printing – marking using branding continues to be applicable.**

Düsseldorf, 22 July 2019 – From 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 inkjet printing will be permitted for marking corner and central blocks and has been included in the EPAL Technical Regulations. Until now the marking on the corner blocks (EPAL in oval) and on the central blocks (IPPC/ISPM 15 and EPAL ID number) has been applied exclusively by branding. Jens Lübbersmeyer, Head of the Technical Department at EPAL reports, “Inkjet-printing technology on wood and woodchip blocks has continuously improved in the past few years. The quality of inkjet printing now meets EPAL’s requirements for printing pallet blocks.”

With the introduction of the new EPAL CP pallets it has become essential that the marking can be applied to smaller blocks and blocks with differing sizes. The newly approved inkjet printing ensures the quality of the marking matches the quality of the pallets and can also be used for marking the intelligent pallets being developed in the EPAL Lab.

“The approval of inkjet printing is an important component to help in the research project with the Fraunhofer IML, which we got off the ground in the last year.” says Christian Kühnhold, EPAL CEO. “In the future, inkjet printing can open up new and different possibilities in marking, which can help achieve users’ requirement for clear marking on EPAL pallets.”

To start with, inkjet printing is limited to the production of EPAL pallets only. The individual approval procedure for inkjet printing starts in August 2019. Both the approval of inkjet printing and the continuous monitoring of pallet- and marking quality is part of EPAL’s quality assurance system: nearly every licensee – from a total of more than 1,500 worldwide – is inspected at least once a month.

**About EPAL:**

The European Pallet Association e.V. (EPAL) ensures a smooth flow of goods in the logistics world with over 500 million EPAL Euro pallets and 20 million box pallets in the world's biggest open exchange pool. Founded in 1991 as the umbrella association of licensed producers and repairers of EPAL load carriers, EPAL is globally responsible for their consistent quality. EPAL pallets are produced from sustainably grown, CO2-neutral wood, can be repaired and recycled, and reduce transport distances thanks to their high level of availability. As a registered association, EPAL does not pursue any commercial interests and makes all its decisions in the interests of its industry, retail and logistics partners. EPAL is represented in over thirty countries by fourteen National Committees which have committed themselves to implementing the EPAL objectives.

**For further press information:**

European Pallet Association e.V. (EPAL)

Andrea Engels

T +49 (0) 211 98 480 48 93

M +49 (0) 172 69 325 95

[andrea.engels@epal-pallets.org](mailto:andrea.engels@epal-pallets.org)

[www.epal.eu](http://www.epal.eu)