GET IT TOGETHER

ASSEMBLY • IT IS UP TO THE USER TO ENSURE THAT A PACKAGE IS ASSEMBLED CORRECTLY; AIR SEA CONTAINERS IS LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION THEY NEED TO DO SO

THE UN PACKAGING standards provide a comprehensive and very strict set of requirements for the design and use of all types of packagings used in the transport of dangerous goods. All designs must be tested and must be tested in the form in which they will be used. For combination packagings, for instance, that means that they are tested with all elements of the complete package in the correct arrangement and with the outer packaging properly closed.

Packaging manufacturers are responsible for having their products properly tested and also for passing on to users the instructions for the proper assembly and use of those packagings. Those instructions have typically been provided on a sheet of paper sent along with the packaging to the user but, as we all know, those sheets can be lost along the way and, given modern digital technology, better ways are being found.

Dangerous goods packaging supplier Air Sea Containers, for instance, has introduced QR codes on its newly branded packaging. When scanned, these codes provide shippers with direct access to a comprehensive set of assembly instructions to help them assemble the packaging compliantly during the packing process. The new QR codes form part of a redesign of Air Sea Containers' fibreboard packagings, which produce a cleaner look and give more space for labels and marks.

Laurence Richards, product manager at Air Sea Containers, comments: "We are passionate about our contribution to the safe shipment of dangerous goods. Our packaging is manufactured to the highest standards and is compliant with air, sea and road

regulations. However, correct assembly is fundamental to its performance. UN packaging must be assembled in accordance with the manufacturer's assembly instructions - use in any other way will render it invalid. To ensure this vital information is to hand when the packaging is assembled, we have introduced QR codes on the packaging itself; the shipper simply scans the QR code and follows the assembly instructions, enabling the packaging to be correctly assembled."

HOW TO DO IT

The new QR codes provide step-by-step assembly instructions, assembly videos, information on package contents and weight restrictions, FAQs and more. This information aims to simplify the packing process for those organisations across a variety of industries who use Air Sea Containers' UN packaging to ship dangerous goods, including those in the

biomedical, pharmaceutical, veterinary, petrochemical, and food and drink industries.

The use of electronic assembly instructions does not affect the packaging's test certificates, as the specification of the packaging itself has not been altered and performs to the same standards as those in has replaced. The removal of paper instructions reduces waste and eliminates the risk of paper assembly sheets being misplaced and not reaching the end user responsible for assembling the packaging compliantly. The QR code placement means the person assembling the packaging will always have the instructions to hand.

Air Sea Containers stresses that it is the shipper's responsibility to ensure that they pack their substances and articles correctly within the packaging, exactly as per the assembly sheet instructions, to ensure the chosen packaging performs to the standard it did during approval testing. If a shipper fails to follow the assembly instructions, they risk invalidating the test certificate and compromising the capability of the packaging.

Air Sea Containers' range of 4GV, 4G, 4DV and Division 6.2 packaging all include the new QR codes, which are also included on non-UN packaging such as the Temperature Control range, which can be used to ship items requiring a temperature-controlled environment, as well as dangerous goods when consigned in an overpack.
www.airseadg.com

Our newly branded packaging features QR codes. Scan for instant access to assembly information