

Reducing Global Warming Potential: A Study Comparing Static Intercept(R) and Traditional Metalized Shield Bags

Liberty Packaging announces proven benefits of Static Intercept packaging via Bell Labs' study: "This paper had demonstrated the environmental benefits packaging can have on the storage, shipment, and protection of sensitive electronic components—a 40 fold reduction in GWP (global warming potential). The benefits are shown to be present throughout the entire product lifecycle, but most noticeably in the use phase where the superior protection qualities of the Static Intercept bag are multiplied into environmental benefits."

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A recently released Bell Labs white paper entitled "Reducing Environmental Impact and Increasing Reliability Through Packaging: A Lifecycle Assessment Approach" by authors and scientists John P. Franey, Thomas A. Okrasinski, and William J. Schaeffer, Sr. compare the Global Warming Potential (GWP) between Liberty Packaging's Static Intercept bag and the traditional



*Static Intercept Protects Electronics
Photo courtesy of Engineered Materials, Inc.*

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**“The results showed
Static Intercept
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metalized shielding bag. The purpose of these products in the electronics manufacturing world is to inhibit electrostatic discharge (ESD) damage on electronics when they are in a most vulnerable state; during shipping and storing. By different methods, these two barrier packaging products have electrical characteristics that allow electrical energy strikes (ESD) to be drained to a grounding source. An added benefit of Static Intercept is that it protects against dangerous corrosive gases, which are ever now more a factor in the world economy; shield bags are not designed to defend against corrosion in a meaningful way.

The report stated: “This work demonstrates that by using a synergistic approach for the primary packaging of products, improvements in the critical trio of reliability, environment, and cost of goods sold can be achieved.” Leaping ahead to the paper’s conclusion: “This paper had demonstrated the environmental benefits packaging can have on the storage, shipment, and protection of sensitive electronic components—a 40 fold reduction in GWP. The benefits are shown to be present throughout the entire product lifecycle, but most noticeably in the use phase where the superior protection qualities of the Static Intercept bag are multiplied into environmental benefits.”

The study had conducted a comparison full lifecycle assessment (LCA) based on one time usage of each bag, though it specifically stated that the Static Intercept bag can be used successfully many times. The LCA phases included: raw material extraction, manufacturing including transport to the assembly site, use phase, end-of-life phase (recyclable or disposed in landfill in which shielding bags are not recyclable and Static Intercept bags are recyclable). The aforementioned use phase was evaluated upon the level of protection afforded (number of products compromised by the bags’ protection or lack thereof) and the GWP of the product that need to be manufactured to replace those compromised. In this study, the product considered to be protected was electronic circuit assemblies.

The results showed Static Intercept outperforming the traditional metalized shield bag in every phase at reducing Global Warming Potential. The greatest GWP savings was the use phase where stronger protection afforded by Static Intercept aided in reducing defects therefore requiring fewer re-makes of the product being protected.

This report reinforces the notion that if a company truly wants to show environmental concern, it makes sense to build a good product and protect it right from the beginning.

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