

SPOTLIGHT on ISTA Certified Testing Laboratory



In March of 1982, a new package testing lab opened its doors for business. Pro-Pack Testing Laboratory, Inc., which was founded by Manuel Rosa, Sr., is conveniently located in Belleville, IL - just 20 minutes outside of St. Louis. Their full-line of equipment allows them to perform a wide-range of testing options, including performance

testing, hazardous materials testing, corrugated and paper analysis, beverage carrier tests and environmental storage testing. The packaging industry was dealt a huge blow in March of 2002 when we learned that Manny Sr. had passed away. Manny Sr. was a great man, with a lengthy and respected reputation in the packaging industry.

Pro-Pack Testing Laboratory joined NSTA (now ISTA) in November of 1982. It took no time at all for Manny Sr. to become active in the organization. He served on several committees, including those that addressed the need for a test procedure that would cover a small-parcel type environment. That work, although it was "before it's time" in terms of technology and thought, would eventually become what we now call Procedure 3A. Even in 1986 Manny Sr. understood the importance of being able to simulate an environment in the lab in order to design the best possible package. He was also active with the Hazardous Materials FAQ brochure, which was published by then NSTA on a regular basis in the 1980's. One of his most appreciated influences, at least on the side of many labs, was his work on improving the test report forms that are submitted. It was Manny Sr.'s drive that brought about the addition of much of the information we now require today.

His son, Manny Jr., having worked at the lab since the age of 13, took over the business after a stroke forced Manny Sr. into retirement in 1996. In 1999, Manny Sr. was honored as one of only 6 people in the history of ISTA to be awarded an Honorary Membership. After his passing in 2002, and in a true testament to his father's lifelong passion for packaging and testing, Manny Jr. has made good on his promise to continue the work his father left behind.

Pro-Pack Testing Laboratory, which is about to celebrate 25 years in the business, has a wide-range of testing capabilities. In addition to being able to perform the requirements for all ISTA testing procedures, they also perform testing according to NMFC Item's 180 and 181, as well as to ASTM D4169. Pro-Pack is an independent third-party test facility certified to test hazardous materials according to CFR 49, including, but not limited, to the requirements for single packs, combination packs, IBC's, large packaging, regulated medical waste and radioactive materials.

Pro-Pack was instrumental in the development of Beverage Carrier tests, which address handle strength and the integrity of the corrugated or paperboard carriers that are widely used by some of the world's largest alcohol and beverage producers. In



Pro-Pack is conveniently located in Belleville, IL - just 20 minutes outside of St. Louis.



The ProPack Staff from l-r: Rob Fuhrman, Manny Rosa, Jr., Kay Amburn, and John Mersinger.

In addition, they offer a laundry list of corrugated and paper analysis, along with the ability to test to nearly any atmospheric condition that might affect a packaged-product. These capabilities, as well as the staff's decades of experience and knowledge, have made Pro-pack a one-stop testing facility.

customers using the lab for hazmat testing. By including this in-depth page on their website, Manny Jr. has carried on his father's tradition of making sure their customers are educated and informed on the testing that is being done. They also offer design services and encourage customers to view the

Pro-Pack recently updated their website, adding the ability for customers to request tests, review and select testing procedures and get their questions asked. A very useful feature on the website is their "FAQ" section, which not only addresses general testing questions and how to get a test done by Pro-Pack, it also covers the specifics of ISTA testing and for those

testing as it happens.

Another tradition Manny Jr. has carried on is his participation in packaging organizations. Manny Sr. served on the ISTA Board of Directors for many years; his son has been on the ISTA Technical Council since its inception, and before that was very active with the Technical Committee. Manny Jr. is an ISTA CPLP-Technologist and his 2 lab techs, John Mersinger and Rob Fuhrman, are ISTA CPLP-Technicians. Manny is also active with the workgroup that is developing a new ISTA testing protocol, Project 3B for the Less-Than-Truckload environment.

Click onto Pro-Pack's website - www.propacktestlab.com - for more details on the lab and to contact their staff personally.

PST