“Rethink and look for sustainable alternatives.”

If the life span of every product is perceived as a continuous cycle, appropriate decisions in the interests of maximising sustainability already have to be made when selecting the raw and input materials for every step in the production and finishing chain. HERMA’s innovative adhesive materials give your production team this option right from the start. It’s therefore likely that you can adopt a new approach much more often than you think, and prompt a positive change in favour of the three R’s – recycle, reduce, renew – with your own products.
“Recycle everything you can neither avoid nor re-use.”
This maxim was rigorously applied when developing an adhesive material that in 2019 won the German Packaging Prize in the sustainability category. Equal proportions of the recycled polyethylene for the product HERMA rPE white originate from industrial and household waste. Another example, provided by the HERMA wash-off adhesive 62Rpw, facilitates continual material recovery. For recycling PET bottles, it achieves a wash-off score of 100 percent when used with film labels.

“Reduce resource consumption and waste.”
HERMA received its second German Packaging Prize in the sustainability category in 2019 for its InNo-Liner system. By dispensing with liner altogether, the labels eliminate the need for laborious waste disposal or recycling once they are applied. A further HERMA development combines thinner label papers with special adhesives, so that the label stock in the Thin Range likewise consumes exceedingly small quantities of precious resources.

“Embrace renewable energies and raw materials.”
Grass is an example of a naturally renewable raw material. And a novel method of processing dried grass fibre for use in paper production serves as a model of resource preservation. Measured against wood pulp, its use can reduce energy and water consumption by as much as 97 and 99 percent respectively. Because it is sourced from domestic ecological compensation sites, moreover, the grass paper used in label production by HERMA also significantly reduces CO₂ emissions. HERMA is likewise committed to sustainable forestry as defined by the FSC® and PEFC.
Compostable label stock

In cases where waste cannot be avoided, it should at least be recyclable or suitable for composting – as exemplified by the label stock consisting of the material HERMAexcoat (grade 242) or HERMAtherm (grade 907) and the special adhesive 62Rpw. It fulfills the benchmarks for industrial compostability and, being a wash-off adhesive, it is easy to remove. Used with PET bottles, it can be composted along with the ubiquitous load carriers – trays, crates, stacking boxes and the like – which can be recycled many times over. Labels coated with the wash-off adhesive 62Rpw enable this type of re-use and the recycling of single-use containers.

First ever practical solution for shipping labels

Among all the known label-free labelling concepts, the HERMA InNo-Liner system as regards the first practicable solution of its kind. It perfectly satisfies the picking pace and other requirements imposed by logistics and distribution systems. On top of that, the label stock is compatible with multi-colour preprinting. The cost is much the same as that of a conventional self-adhesive label, and affordability is enhanced by avoiding the considerable expense of disposing of waste.

Growing demand for recovered paper

We are stepping up the use of recycled paper and rapidly expanding our range. Among the focal points are coated papers, which are especially attractive in view of their broad application scope and the increasing demand being generated by label users. HERMAexcoat (grade 236), for instance, is produced entirely from post-consumer recycled (PCR) material – waste paper recovered from private households.

Optimising consumption, reducing costs

Doing business in a sustainable way always entails optimising the consumption of resources. By way of its lighter Thin Film label stock, consisting of thin film label paper and specially adapted adhesives, HERMA is leading the way in saving on costs and resources. Economically lightweight and easy to handle, these materials ensure durable and reliable labelling on diverse surfaces, as well as outstanding printability and label integrity.

In logistics processes, typically in the production and distribution of food and plants, profitability depends on efficient internal material flows and flawless goods transportation and delivery. It is therefore essential that the substantial core carriers – trays, crates, stacking boxes and the like – can be recycled many times over. Labels coated with the wash-off adhesive 62Rpw enable this type of re-use and the recycling of single-use containers.

Recycling (236), for instance, is produced entirely from post-consumer recycled (PCR) material – waste paper recovered from private households.

Reusing and recycling

Recycling is one of the few areas where everyone is quite clearly on the same page: it is the only way to preserve finite natural resources. That is why HERMA is following through in the booming recycled film segment. Superior product characteristics. And with the completely new HERMA rPP adhesive, we are furthering the route to full compatibility. This solution therefore perfectly brings together sustainability and superior product characteristics.

Sustainable forestry

The compliance of HERMA’s adhesive material production practices with the strict FSC® requirements has been certified since back in 2012. The seal of the independent Forest Stewardship Council is recognised worldwide as a mark of environment-friendly, ethical and economically sustainable forestry management. Users and consumers are secure in the knowledge that the plant fibres used in the manufacture of HERMA adhesive material are sourced in a sustainable manner, free of pesticides and other detrimental residues – no remains of paper or film labels, and no residual adhesive.

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Compliance with EN 13430 verified by INGEDE
A self-adhesive label becomes an integral part of the product to which it is applied. In order to ensure that the item as a whole can be recycled, the use of an appropriate label material is essential. It’s also important to bear in mind that this material will also undergo recycling at a later stage. The HERMA adhesives 62A and 62D have passed the recyclability tests performed by the industry association INGEDE at The Technical University (TU) of Darmstadt. And, by way of screening, they can be reliably eliminated from the paper recycling process.

Bisphenols and phenols in thermal papers
The paper industry uses bisphenols and phenols as colour developers in thermal papers. A ban on the use of thermal papers containing more than 0.02% bisphenol A, imposed by Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/2235, entered force on 2 January 2020. HERMA has gone one step further: a large number of its HERMATop thermal papers are produced entirely without bisphenol chemicals. These papers also satisfy the requirements of the Swiss Ordinance SR 814.14. The company likewise produces some its HERMAtherm papers without any phenol chemicals.

HERMA food-safe adhesives
In the food industry, labels are applied either to the packaging (indirect food contact) or directly to the produce, e.g. to meat, cheese or fruit (direct food contact). In order to prevent undesirable constituents penetrating the food, adhesives and label materials are tested according to the requirements of official bodies, such as the BfR (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment) or the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration). HERMA supplies numerous food-safe products with adhesives that have been certified by the German institute ISEGA.

Avoiding migration
Many food packaging films do not offer sufficient barrier functionality. When labels are applied, substances such as resins contained in the adhesive can pass through the film and contaminate the food. Reducing the quantities of such substances, however, generally impairs the adhesive properties. A way out of this dilemma is provided by innovative multi-layer technology, which enables HERMA to offer a migration-safe range encompassing all of its standard adhesives.

European Chemicals Regulation – REACH
As a general rule, HERMA adhesives are not subject to mandatory registration pursuant to REACH. This is because they do not contain any “substances of very high concern” in concentrations falling within the scope of compulsory registration. We nonetheless support the purpose of REACH, namely to enhance the safety of chemicals in the interests of protecting human health and the environment. We accordingly use only raw, secondary and finishing materials that, where necessary, are registered pursuant to REACH.