

Brigl & Bergmeister, IdemPapers to hike prices

In the face of rising costs, Austria's Brigl & Bergmeister and Belgian IdemPapers have set their sights on price increases for their specialty paper products.

Brigl & Bergmeister is seeking hikes of at least 7% for all deliveries of label and flexible packaging papers from July 1. "This step is necessary, as previous increases were not sufficient to compensate for the extraordinarily high cost increases in raw materials, energy and freight. Despite very high capacity utilization, the margins of the industry have reached unacceptably low levels," the firm said in a statement.

IdemPapers has announced price increases of up to 7% for all deliveries of its specialty papers for labeling, release liner and poster applications from June 1. The firm said it has so far managed to absorb significant increases in energy and raw material costs through various efficiency gains and cost reduction programs. However, "the level of recent increases leaves the company with little option but to raise prices," it added.

Brigl & Bergmeister, a member of the Prinzhorn Group, produces approximately 75,000 tonnes/yr of label papers at its plant in Niklasdorf, Austria. Moreover, the firm owns a paper mill in the greater Ljubljana area of Slovenia, Papirnica Vevče, which churns out some 90,000 tonnes/yr of label papers, flexible packaging papers and graphic papers.

IdemPapers operates one mill in Virginal-Samme where it produces approximately 140,000 tonnes/yr of carbonless, poster and label papers. The firm emerged from a management buyout at Arjowiggins Belgium in October 2009.