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## **Gasket Integrity is Critical to Proper Closing of Open Head Drums**

One of the most critical components of proper drum closure is the cover gasket. Since the adoption of Performance Oriented Packaging (POPS), new gasket styles, materials and profiles are used to increase drum integrity and performance. Steel drum manufacturers and reconditioners are free to use any gasket they choose when creating a drum to be compliant with the UN and DOT test requirements. Therefore, drum fillers and shippers must be aware that in accordance with a specific manufacturers or reconditioners closure instructions, all gaskets need to be inspected prior to sealing or closing a drum.

Whether it's the first time closed, or a repeated closure, check the gasket for any irregularities including, but not limited to: crumbling, cracking, slicing, tearing, and most importantly, that it is properly seated into the cover groove. In some cases the gasket fits on top of the bead, and in this case, be sure to verify that the bond to the metal is intact. Also, as a result of long term compression, gaskets will exhibit memory and should be replaced if they do not appear capable of a secure seal. *In the event that a user should believe the gasket to be in need of replacement, or is questionable, the original equipment manufacturer should be contacted in order to purchase a replacement. **It is critical that a replacement gasket be the same as the original gasket with which the drums were tested. A substitution gasket will invalidate the UN/DOT certification.***