

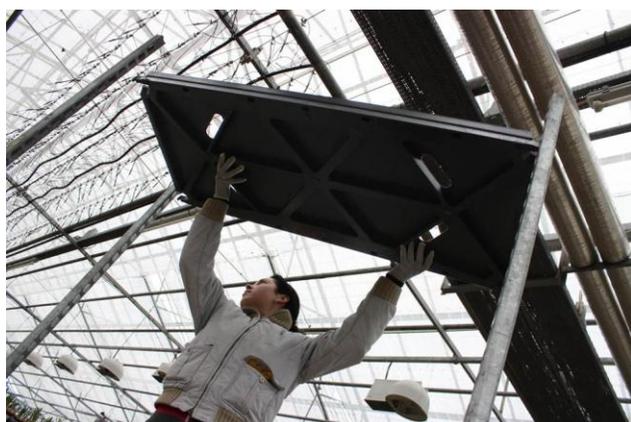
PRESS RELEASE

Ergonomically Correct CC Container Plastic Shelves Save Money and CO₂

Following the RFID implementation on the CC Container, an increasing number of users are scanning and any containers that do not have the genuine CC RFID tag are rejected. The improved pool protection now paves the way for further development of the CC Container to the benefit of all users.

CC Container Shelves in Focus

As Container Centralen (CC) has already promised, they will further improve the CC Container now that the pool is closed. One of the focus points is the shelves.



- "Unfortunately, the quality of the shelves in the system today is very inconsistent due to a huge influx of illegal low-quality shelves," says Tonny Vangsgaard Gravesen, CEO at CC, and he continues, - "To improve the overall quality, we need to close the pool to the illegal influx. One idea has been to RFID tag the existing plywood shelves. It would, of course, make more sense to convert to plastic shelves to save the hassle of tagging the old shelves, but we also need to consider how to finance such a conversion. However, we cannot neglect the benefits that the lighter shelf will have for the industry."

The idea of RFID tagging the existing plywood shelves has been put on hold by CC, and they have now developed a new durable and light-weight plastic shelf instead.

New Plastic Shelves in Test Flows from April

- "CC has been working on the development of new plastic shelves for some years now, and from April several hundred shelves will be tested in real life flows in The Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Denmark, involving users in all parts of the supply chain. After the peak season, experiences and ideas to improve the plastic shelves further will be collected and used in the final design," Gravesen explains.

Søren Bech, owner of the Filippa plant nursery in Denmark, expects a lot from the plastic shelves. "We are looking forward to taking part in this trial and being able to suggest possible adjustments in the design," Bech says. He continues, "The fact that the weight of a plastic shelf is only half that of the current plywood shelves is a huge improvement in itself – not least for our many female employees who handle the shelves every day."

The shelves from CC are *pure* plastic to ensure that they are light and easy to handle, unlike other plastic shelves in the market today which all have iron reinforcements and are much heavier. Thus, apart from a better and more consistent quality, the CC Container users will have less weight to handle.

200 million tkm* less per year

- "There are more than 14 million CC Container shelves in the market today, and each shelf will become approx. 3 kg lighter, so there will be a huge reduction in the total weight handled and transported in



Europe," says Gravesen, and he continues, - "If we estimate that each container does 8 'round trips' per year, the workers in our industry will lift approx. 336,000 tons less per year! This improves ergonomics significantly."

In addition to improving ergonomics for the workers who handle the CC Container shelves, the lighter weight also means savings on fuel in the industry – which in turn leads to reduced CO₂ emissions.

– "If we add to the calculation that a CC Container on an average is transported 600 km per round trip – from grower to auction to wholesaler to retailer and back to the grower again – this will lead to a reduction in CO₂ emissions corresponding to more than 200 million tkm* per year. Another significant improvement," says Gravesen.

- "It is, of course, nothing new that you can create a plastic shelf. However, we focus on the real-life use, the long lifetime, the design, and not least the weight of the shelves. It is not enough to be present at exhibitions with a nice looking prototype and glossy paper. We need to be sure that it works for the users," Gravesen concludes.

* tkm = ton-kilometre = moving one ton of cargo one kilometre

Picture caption:

Container Centralen has developed a new plastic shelf for the CC Container, which will be tested in real life flows in The Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Denmark already from April. Plastic shelves are lighter and more durable, and this will provide better ergonomics as well as offer CO₂ and cost savings.

More information:

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