

Dry Bulk Packaging...

The design and manufacture of Big Bags marks the beginnings of Structure-flex's success. The Original Big Bag, designed for multi-trip transportation, was the company's first product, and remains one of the most successful, having evolved to fulfil many different functions. An international bulk bag industry, centred around a range of products known collectively as Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers [FIBCs] has grown out of Structure-flex's original product.

As the name suggests, FIBCs are used to handle dry products in bulk at varying stages of the manufacturing and production cycle, right through to the point of user packaging. Today, the majority of FIBCs for dry bulk are manufactured from highly technical and complex textile mixes which ensure total compliance with a range of performance, quality, hygiene and health and safety standards. Structure-flex took the strategic decision to form partnerships with specialised FIBC manufacturers, which now include accomplished manufacturers in the UK, Eastern Europe and the Far East. This supply chain network means that Structure-flex can supply a quality product for a comprehensive range of applications and packaging budgets, to a lead time which delivers when required.

FIBCs are available with capacities ranging from 250kg to 2.5 tonnes. However, Structure-flex has the capability of manufacturing specialist bags capable of handling even larger loads. They are used extensively in a variety of sectors including agriculture, healthcare, chemical, construction, food processing and manufacturing; the Structure-flex Dry Bulk Packaging team has over 15 years of experience and can match FIBC products to the very different application specifications demanded by each of these industry sectors.

Dry bulk packaging also involves the use of container units, which are transported internationally by road, sea and air, as 'mobile' FIBCs. Structure-flex has pioneered the development of bulk container liners for this important method of transportation between manufacture, storage and final processing.

In light of environmental consideration and cost-efficiency, Structure-flex offers a reconditioning [with the exception of bags used for hazardous goods] and recycling service. Big Bags with a safety factor of 6.1 or higher may be used up to five times; those unsuitable for reconditioning are shredded, washed, dried and melted into polypropylene granules for the manufacture of garden furniture etc.



Original Big Bag

The Original Big Bag, the ultimate reusable, multi-trip bulk bag for use in demanding applications and environments, is manufactured from reinforced thermoplastic-coated material.

FIBCs

FIBC is the generic term for many of Structure-flex's bulk handling products, including both single trip disposable FIBCs as well as heavy duty durable multi-trip thermoplastic bulk bags, PE shaped liners and dry bulk container liners.

Oil Industry Big Bags

The oil industry requires a robust and environmentally friendly system for transportation of both chemicals and drill cuttings. Variants of the Big Bag are used for the two processes.

Bulk Container Liners

Suitable for grains, malt, PP and PE granules and resin, sugar, flour, rice, salt and coffee. A variety of foodstuffs and chemicals can be easily and safely transported in a highly cost effective manner.

Reconditioning and Recycling

Extend the life of an FIBC as much as five-fold with Structure-flex's reconditioning service, and play an active part in environmental conservation process by recycling them at the end of their lives.

areas of expertise...

structure-flex[®]

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The Original Big Bag™ ...



Structure-flex has been manufacturing the Original Big Bag since the 1970s. Using reinforced thermoplastic coated flexible material, which renders it superior to standard polypropylene FIBCs, it can be used to store and transport a variety of products in bulk, in loads of anything up to 2500 kgs.

The Big Bag can be tailor made with a variety of fabrics, to include food grade, oil-resistant and conductive properties. Every fabric is water resistant. A welded construction provides maximum strength and creates a dust proof, weather proof, contaminant free bulk bag container.

As with most bulk bag products, the Original Structure-flex Big Bag can be produced in a number of colours, shapes and sizes. A variety of lifting arrangements including straps or lifting rings can be applied and bulk bags can be manufactured to include drawstrings, special closures, skirts and baffles, all designed to perfectly match the required filling and discharging equipment.

Thermoplastic long life bulk bags are capable of a great number of trips and can last for many years. This means the Original Big Bag is cost effective, reduces environmental impact due to a much longer life span, and is space saving compared with steel containers.

The Big Bag has evolved into a versatile, multi-trip flexible container, including:

- **The Strap Bag** – Which incorporates welded straps to a proven and reliable design, which eliminate the risk of moisture seepage through the puncture holes caused by stitching. It can be moved easily by a fork lift truck. The Strap Bag meets the legal criteria for the handling of hazardous goods.
- **The Ring Bag** – Allows many bags to be moved using just one piece of specialised equipment. This is ideal for higher capacity bags due to the load being equally spread around the circumference of the bag.
- **The Baffle Bag** – Which provides a more rigid structure through integral internal baffles. Structure-flex has recently enhanced its Baffle Bag design, eliminating the tendency to distort and overhang its pallet base, making it ideal for use when a product requires storage. Because of its stability, the use of Baffle Bags is suited to warehouses which are highly automated and for maximising the load in trailers or shipping containers.

Market & Customers

On-going development has turned the Original Big Bag into a highly versatile, multi-trip flexible container, used widely in the chemical, food and oil and gas industries.

It is superior to standard PP (Polypropylene) FIBCs, Tay Sacks or bulk bags because of inherent fabric properties and unique welded construction. Thermoplastic bulk bags also ensure complete product integrity, and are particularly suitable for high value chemicals, such as barite and bentonite products used in oil and gas drilling operations. Dry bulk product can be stored for long periods of time, even outside, if necessary with no risk of UV damage to the bulk bag or water damage to the product.

Longevity

Life expectancy of bags can be over five years 'in field' use and can be repaired to prolong active use. The Big Bag is a reusable packaging system that eliminates the need for expensive recycling or disposal. Most significantly, long life bags reduce the calculated cost per trip.

Flexibility

The flexibility of the Big Bag means that they require less storage space than rigid IBCs.

Pricing & Availability

Purchasers benefit from competitive pricing of high quality products, many of which are available ex-stock or on short lead times.

UK Distribution Network

A network of distributors and agents ensures easy product access by end users nationwide.

Customer Support & Advice

On-going training and familiarisation ensures Structure-flex staff can provide relevant product support and application advice.

Quality & Product Development

Structure-flex is an ISO 9001:2000 registered company. Product development is an on-going process within Structure-flex and the company prides itself on its ability to work with its customers to provide products to solve specific application needs.

features & benefits...

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