Sonoco Tube and Core Operations to Implement Energy Surcharge

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HARTSVILLE, S.C., Sept. 9 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Due to the recent unprecedented increases for petroleum-based materials, natural gas, diesel fuel and other energy-related costs, the Industrial Products division of Sonoco (NYSE: SON) today announced the implementation of a 1.375% energy surcharge to be added to all invoices effective September 19, 2005, for its tube and core products in the United States and Canada.

Jack Sanders, vice president and general manager, Industrial Products division-North America, explains, "Productivity and conservation initiatives, combined with prudent energy risk management practices, helped mitigate prior cost increases incurred earlier in the year. However, these measures are simply not sufficient to offset the dramatic increases which have more recently occurred, primarily natural gas for our paper operations and diesel fuel for transportation."

Sanders concluded, "Rather than capturing these incremental cost increases through our unit prices, we feel it appropriate to use a temporary energy surcharge based only on the amount of the increased cost. This charge will be applied as a separate line item on each invoice. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust these charges periodically to reflect further changes in the energy markets."

Sonoco is a $3.2 billion global manufacturer of consumer and industrial packaging products and provider of packaging services, with more than 300 operations in 35 countries serving customers in 85 nations. Additional information about Sonoco is available at http://www.sonoco.com.

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