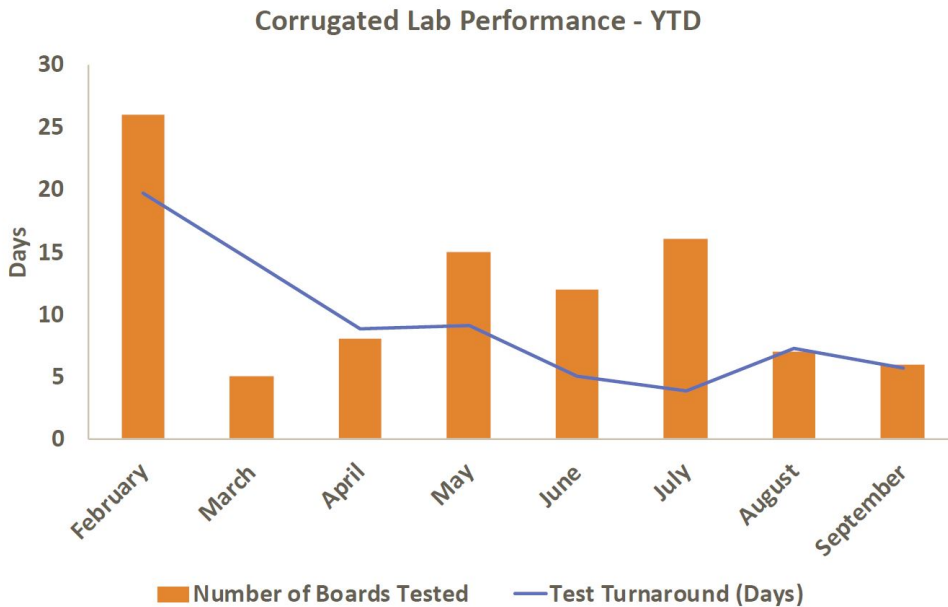


Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design (CPULD)

# News for IKEA Suppliers



## Get Ahead of the Holidays and Our Peak Testing Season!

We wanted to take this opportunity to let our IKEA suppliers know that we are currently experiencing a low demand for corrugated board testing.

If you are planning to send in your company's samples for testing soon and you are able to move up your send-in date, we recommend that you do so ASAP!

The lab always experiences a high demand for services after the holiday season, so the longer you wait to send us your samples, the more likely it is that yours will get caught up in the post-holiday rush.

In short, the sooner you're able to send us your samples, the quicker turnaround time we'll be able to offer you.

## Lab Holiday Schedule

The Corrugated Packaging Materials Lab will close on December 18, 2019, and reopen on January 17, 2020.

Deliveries cannot be accepted and no materials testing will be completed during the holiday break. Please make sure you send in your samples well before the holidays if you need your testing results before the new year.



## ~ Test of the Season: Burst Test ~

[Click the video or this link to watch the test being performed!](#)

This test is designed to determine the force required to puncture through a corrugated board. This strength comes from various factors, including thickness of the paper liner layers, narrowness of the flutes, and layers of glue holding everything together.

## Tactics for Success

In the packaging industry, as in life, communication is key! In order to make sure that your company's samples are received, processed, and tested in a timely fashion, we're taking this opportunity to let you know what we need from you.

- Please communicate with Eduardo Molina (or another Corrugated Lab specialist) when your company is sending corrugated board samples to our lab. The earlier that you let us know when your samples will arrive at the lab, the earlier your samples will be fit into the lab's testing schedule.
- We've had issues recently with samples not being packaged properly and arriving damaged. Damaged samples are not able to be tested properly and will have to be replaced, which delays the testing process. Please make sure that your corrugated board samples are packaged in such a way that no dents, dings, or bending can occur to them during transit.

As you can imagine, if samples arrive at the lab with no notice, it could take days to determine their purpose, the tests needed, and to schedule the processing of the samples, which will likely cause multiple-day delays.

**Please let us know the expected arrival of your samples at least 3 days in advance to ensure efficient processing of the project.**

We know that, together, we can create a productive, streamlined process to get your samples tested and the final reports back to you quickly. We appreciate your help in helping us help you!

See the handy graphic below.

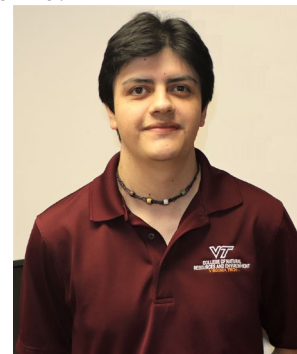
## Student Spotlight

**Jorge Masís** is a student intern from Cartago, Costa Rica, who studied industrial production engineering at the Costa Rica Institute of Technology. He is currently working in the Corrugated Packaging Materials Lab as part of his final project before graduating.

His project focuses on implementing improvements to the laboratory's processes and overall management based on ISO 17025 guidelines – a standard that will ensure the laboratory's technical capabilities as well as reaffirming its commitment to confidentiality and impartiality.

In his free time, Jorge likes to play video games, watch movies, and play the bass guitar. He really enjoys working in the Corrugated Packaging Materials Lab because it offers him the chance to apply what his professors have taught him while also learning new concepts and skills working alongside other students and gaining personal experience in materials testing.

Jorge believes that the ideal outcome of his project will be to learn as much as possible from this great opportunity while also contributing to the laboratory's improvement, following the example of his advisor, Eduardo Molina.



1. Properly package and label all samples.



2. Inform lab of arrival date.



3. Send samples.





Center for Packaging and Unit Load Design

# Corrugated Packaging Materials Research and Testing Laboratory

1650 Research Center Drive (0503)  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Ph: 540-231-7107 | [www.unitload.vt.edu](http://www.unitload.vt.edu)

In order to have your corrugated board certified for use by IKEA through CPULD's Corrugated Lab:

1. Look over the [IKEA Testing Costs](#) and decide which tests your samples need.
2. Fill out the [IKEA Testing Request Form](#) and send to [Eduardo Molina](#).
3. Prepare your samples according to the Testing Request Form guidelines. Being sure to OVERPACKAGE your samples to avoid damage during delivery.
4. Call (540-231-5370) or email ([molina@vt.edu](mailto:molina@vt.edu)) Eduardo Molina to let the Corrugated Lab know when to expect your samples.
5. Send your overpackaged and properly labeled samples to: Corrugated Packaging Materials Lab, c/o Eduardo Molina, 1650 Research Center Dr. (0503), Blacksburg, VA 24061.

The **Corrugated Packaging Materials Lab** will close on **December 18, 2019, and not reopen again until January 17, 2020**. Deliveries cannot be accepted and no materials testing will be completed during the holiday break. The lab's normal hours (i.e., except during the holiday break) are as shown below.

CPULD hours:

Sunday:	Closed
Monday:	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday:	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday:	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday:	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday:	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday:	Closed

Hours for Corrugated Lab deliveries:

Sunday:	Closed
Monday:	8-11:30 a.m. & 1-4:30 p.m.
Tuesday:	8-11:30 a.m. & 1-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday:	8-11:30 a.m. & 1-4:30 p.m.
Thursday:	8-11:30 a.m. & 1-4:30 p.m.
Friday:	8-11:30 a.m. & 1-4:30 p.m.
Saturday:	Closed

## Contact Our Team:

*Corrugated testing quotes, ongoing corrugated testing operations, Corrugated Lab management.*



**Eduardo Molina**  
[molina@vt.edu](mailto:molina@vt.edu)  
540-231-5370

*Immediate needs, delivery info, invoicing questions, AP / AR.*



**Angela Riegel**  
[ariegel@vt.edu](mailto:ariegel@vt.edu)  
540-231-7107

*This newsletter is for you, and we would love to hear from our audience! Please send us your questions, comments, and/or any ideas of what you'd like to see as future article topics!*



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