

HAESAERTS INTERMODAL STRENGTHENS ITS COCOA BUTTER LOGISTICS IN AFRICA



Transport is our Passion, Safety our Style



Responsible Care®
OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Haesaerts Intermodal has set up its own subsidiary in the port of San Pedro in Côte d'Ivoire. This allows the Belgian logistics operator to control the entire cocoa butter transport chain from the production region to the final destination in Europe. The logistical support is covered by its own tank containers and dedicated in-house teams.

Although Haesaerts Intermodal specializes in dedicated logistics solutions for chemical liquids and gases destined for difficult and demanding regions such as Eastern Europe, the company has for many years also been active in the transport of cocoa butter.

Haesaerts Intermodal organizes the transport of cocoa butter from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon in ISO tank containers. This sets the company apart from other operators who opt for flexitanks loaded in conventional containers. Haesaerts' solution requires more technology, making it appear to be a more expensive transport option. However, when calculating the 'total cost of operations' (TCO) the solution proves to be a lot more attractive.



A MUCH LOWER TCO »

To calculate the actual cost, the losses of product along the chain and other hidden costs need to be considered. Cocoa butter is a very expensive commodity. Any loss of product therefore has a very high cost. This comparison speaks volumes: in an ISO tank container, which can carry 22 tonnes of product, the cocoa butter is loaded at 60°C. This temperature is controlled and maintained to arrive at the place of unloading at 56°C. Once the container tank is emptied, the only residue is a film on the inner wall, a total weight of just 20 kilos. When loaded into a flexitank, however, the cocoa butter solidifies and must be warmed when it reaches its destination, with all the quality risks involved. In addition, between 400 and 700 kilos of product remain in the flexitank after it has been emptied. At roughly \$ 6,000 per tonne of cocoa butter, this residue represents a huge cost.

Other costs also weigh in the balance: the cost of energy for warming at the destination and, above all, the flexitank must be destroyed after use by a specialized company.

The TCO of the ISO tank container is significantly more attractive than that of the conventional flexitank/container combination.

HAESAERTS INTERMODAL AFRICA »

Today, Haesaerts Intermodal transports 100 tank containers of cocoa a year between these three countries and chocolate factories in Europe. On the 1st of February, the company created **Haesaerts Intermodal Africa in the Autonomous Port of San Pedro**, becoming the first European tank container operator to have its own subsidiary in the region. Instead of working with agents, Haesaerts now has its own staff on site. This allows the company to independently organize door-to-door transport, to better control quality throughout the chain, and to intervene much more quickly in the event of an incident. Improved food safety is another significant consideration.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS »

The new office in San Pedro, in the heart of the cocoa region, offers many additional benefits to the sector's customers.

- Better monitoring of the containers, which are moreover equipped with a GPS system and temperature protection
- A supply chain 100% controlled by a track & trace system
- Regular sea transport services between San Pedro and the port of Antwerp
- Reliable connections between the port of Antwerp and all destinations in Europe
- Transport of the tank container at a guaranteed and 'all in' cost per tonne

AMBITIOUS PROJECTS IN SAN PEDRO »

The San Pedro office is located on a new logistics platform within the Autonomous Port, created as part of the partnership between the ports of San Pedro and Antwerp. This platform is set to become a regional logistics hotspot not only for cocoa, but also for fertilizers and cashew nuts.

In the part of the port allocated to cocoa butter, Haesaerts Intermodal Africa will create state-of-the-art facilities for storage and transit, including a high-quality tank cleaning service.



As part of the cocoa butter supply chain, these facilities will complement those of Haesaerts Intermodal in Zwijndrecht in the port of Antwerp, where the company has a head office offering a full range of services: cleaning, storage, heating, transport, customs formalities, etc.

HAESAERTS INTERMODAL AFRICA

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