

BY: Humphrey Owen

FOR: OWENS-ILLINOIS, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOLEDO, OHIO, November 6 --- Owens-Illinois, Inc., announced today it is raising the base prices of most of the glass containers it makes by from four to seven percent, effective January 1.

All glass containers except beer bottles will be affected by the increase, Ebon C. Jones, Owens-Illinois executive vice president in charge of domestic container operations, said. Beer bottle prices were raised on October 1.

Owens-Illinois, with headquarters in Toledo, operates five plants in Los Angeles and vicinity and nine plants in the San Francisco and Oakland area.

In addition to the increase in base prices, other upward adjustments will be made in a limited number of areas, including corrugated shipping carton differentials and bottle decorating charges, to reflect the higher production costs involved, Mr. Jones said.

Detailed prices will be made available to customers as soon as possible, he said.

"The increases are being announced as early as possible in order to allow customers to include them in their planning for 1969," Mr. Jones added. "The price rises are the direct result of increases in labor, material and other costs we have already received or which will be effective in 1969.

"By 1969 our glass container employment costs will have risen by 62 percent since 1959. Labor is our largest single cost item, representing more than one-third of the cost of making a bottle or jar.

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"On the other hand, our glass container price index will be only 13 percent above our 1959 levels even after the January 1 increase is effective. This compares with an increase of 22.2 percent in the federal government's consumer price index as of October 1 this year."

Even after the price increases announced today are effective, Owens-Illinois' average selling price will be only 36 cents per gross (144 bottles) above its 1959 average price, Mr. Jones said. The new average selling price will be \$6.70 per gross, compared to \$6.34 in 1959.

"This is an increase of only one-fourth cent per bottle since 1959," the O-I executive vice president pointed out. "This is primarily due to the decreased weight of many containers made possible by our improved technology and the change in our product mix that has resulted from the rapidly growing demand for beer and soft drinks in non-returnable bottles."

Owens-Illinois raised the prices of glass containers for food, drugs, chemicals, toiletries, liquor, wine and returnable soft drink bottles last April 23 following the end of a 51-day glass container industry strike which closed all 18 of its glass container plants. Owens-Illinois said at the time that the April increases, which averaged from three to four percent, were primarily the result of the largest labor increase in the history of the glass container industry.

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