

## QUALITY PACKAGING PRACTICES: FOCUS ON HYGIENIC DESIGN AND MICROBIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

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### **ABSTRACT**

Today, the issue of hygienic design is widely discussed when it comes to the packaging of beverages. Basically, the term involves the experience and improvements the machine suppliers have made in order to improve the microbiological conditions in the plants. This presentation will involve examples taken from the consulting activities of the VLB concerning secondary contamination risks.

Many risk areas are avoidable with today's knowledge of hygienic design, whereas other scenarios, taken from the praxis, show common problems in the packaging practice. In this paper, different risk areas are highlighted around the packaging plant, since it becomes more important to regard the entire surrounding instead of looking specifically at the filling machines themselves. Furthermore, the focus is on pipes and internals leading into the packaging department, conveyor belts, ventilation equipment in the filling plant as well as constructive elements.

However, the positive trend towards hygienic design often stands in contrast to the reality that breweries have to deal with in everyday filling procedures. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the weak points in order to take preventative steps to controlling the risk.