

Paper wrapping instead of film - KHS offers simple conversion of its packaging machines for beverage cans

The new packaging alternative from KHS, in which beverage cans are wrapped in paper instead of film, can also be retrofitted to existing Innopack machines from the Dortmund-based systems supplier. Customers can either opt for more flexibility with selectable film or paper packaging - or switch to paper altogether.



With the paper wrapping, KHS wants to respond to consumers' desire for environmentally friendly alternatives when it comes to packaging material. (Photo: © KHS)

Option for paper wrapping within the scope of a conversion

Paper may still be relatively new as a packaging material in the beverage market. As an alternative, but especially to plastic film, the material is meeting with steadily growing interest among fillers. Since 2020, KHS has therefore been offering the option of wrapping beverage cans in paper on its packaging machines. To offer customers the greatest possible flexibility, the function was integrated into a combination machine: Whether wraparound, tray or pad, with or without film wrapping or wrapping in paper - the system solution can process a wide variety of secondary packaging.

However, as not every beverage producer wants to install a new machine, the paper wrapping option is also available from KHS as part of a conversion.



Whether wraparound, tray or pad, with or without film wrapping or wrapping in paper - the Innopack processes a wide variety of secondary packaging. (Photo: © KHS)

Exchange or expansion

KHS offers two alternatives for retrofitting: If the paper wrap is to permanently replace the previous use of shrink film as secondary packaging, two modules must be exchanged. The wrapping module for the previous film processing is replaced by the advanced module that can process paper. In addition, the shrink tunnel is replaced by a component that folds and glues the paper.

Beverage producers that don't want to forego flexibility in terms of secondary packaging can retrofit the packaging solution as an additional option for their existing machine. In this case, the paper cover is adapted and the paper folding/gluing module is added.

Also possible for older machines

Once the modules are installed, changing the material does not require any conversions other than the standard format change. Production can start as soon as the packaging material has been replaced and the hotmelt equipment is ready for use. "The conversion is easy to implement on all machine types in the Advanced series," explains Uwe Bartholemy, Head of Technical Support Packaging in the Service Division of KHS. The modular design of the Innopack machines makes this possible. "Generally, we can also convert older machines accordingly. To do this, we look at each case individually, for example to check whether an update of the control system is necessary."

Technically straightforward

Packers without an existing film wrapping module receive the new module as an upgrade. Compared to the previous machine section, it also has a gluing station that glues the paper together under the pack. In addition, a paper folding/gluing module must be added to the packers - or exchanged for the shrink tunnel - in which the packs are sealed.

The costs for the conversion are significantly lower than investing in a new machine. In addition, only a partial commissioning of existing formats is necessary, as these are already set for the existing modules of the machine. New formats can also be set up with a view to the existing ones without much effort.

Additional information and contact

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