



Downgauging/Lightweighting

Project Implementation

Batchelors have worked closely with their suppliers to optimise the packaging design of their tins. The lacquered 400g / 420g can for peas and pulses is now a two piece can construction which weighs 49.7g. The old style can was a three piece can which did not have a necked in base and did not stack easily on shelves. It was critical that the look and feel of the can was not altered.

Benefits of the Project

- Changeover equates to an annualised reduction of 19.95 metric tonnes of steel in 400g/420g peas and pulse products.
- Success of the project means a similar redesigning of bean cans is in progress. A similar weight reduction in the bean can would equate to an annualised saving of over 50 metric tonnes of steel.
- There is a 10% saving in cost compared to the 3 piece can, but this should be seen in the light of significant price increases for the can.
- Producer responsibility fees decreased.
- 3.39g reduction in weight per can.
- 8.26% weight reduction overall.



Issues Encountered

The changeover to the 2 – piece can required the development of a lacquer that was compatible with foods. Handling, filling, processing and transportation trials had to be carried out to ensure that the 2 – piece can performance was compatible with the 3 – piece can. One of the key issues was can performance during processing that required internal pressure testing to ensure that the new can performance was compatible with the 3 piece can.

Further Information

For further information on Batchelors and cans see:

www.batchelors.ie
www.mpma.org.uk



Case Study