



# GLASSINSIGHT

*Improving Performance In Production*

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## PYROTEK SWEEP-OUT DESIGNS IMPROVE PERFORMANCE FOR BOTTLE PRODUCER



An important customer of Pyrotek in the container glass industry is a privately-owned U.S. company operating five IS machines producing mainly flint glass colour food containers from soda lime glass.

Pyrotek Sales Engineer, Buddy Bell, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA, explains that back in March this year, the customer was having problems with bottles not being contained in the sweep-out pockets. Bottles were being swept from the dead plate on to the conveyor, falling down and out of alignment. Other associated production issues involved instances of bruise checking near the bottom of the containers and the durability of the sweep-out.

The customer approached Pyrotek, as its sole supplier of sweep-out and associated product technologies, to review the production situation with a view to help design and produce a sweep-out which would solve these issues on a quick turnaround basis.

A major area of the customer's pain centered around time constraints; the plant continued to run at full production requiring a fast solution and quick turnaround. Significant production had been lost due to containers falling down, their misalignment on the conveyor and also checking of the glassware.

### PYROTEK SOLUTION

Buddy Bell and his Pyrotek glass team colleagues worked closely with the customer's machine repair team and discussed possible design solutions. A current Pyrotek double-gob vacuum sweep-out design was reconfigured by centering the vacuum channel in line with the center of the container. This was done to hold the container in the pocket and keep it aligned during transfer to the conveyor. To eliminate the bruise checking caused by the glassware touching any metallic parts on the sweep-out finger, Pyrotek added a solid P-25T carbon insulating back pad to each finger.

The finger material thickness and its solid mounting were also changed to increase the overall strength of the sweep-out. With a quick turnaround, these changes were made and the new equipment was installed on the customer's process.

The customer reports that the new modified sweep-out design delivers improved performance in ware handling at the sweep-out and has reduced loss in its container production.

With this latest successful installation for the customer, Pyrotek continues to partner to improve plant glass manufacturing performance.

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