



GLASSINSIGHT

Improving Performance In Production

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STAINLESS STEEL WARE HANDLING SURFACES BOOST STACKER BAR PERFORMANCE

In glass handling, larger-size glass ware presents more checking issues than smaller ware. This is a function of the increased mass of the container; the extra mass causes the retention of more heat further downstream in the process. This heat retention increases the risk of checking when in contact with ware handling materials. A special area of concern has been the problem of glass checking from the stacker bar loading containers into thelehr furnace. As Bob Snare, Pyrotek Glass Sales Engineer, Columbia City, Indiana, USA, explains, processing larger than average glass containers invites a variety of checking issues not present when processing the average container.

When processing larger ware, some manufacturers have tried to use various materials for stacker bar applications that, while readily available and inexpensive, incur a greater cost of ownership through downtime, quality issues and short material life. In some cases, material life can be less than two weeks. This causes unplanned outages resulting in lost production time in addition to checks that disrupt the process flow. There is also the cost of keeping several replacement stacker bars ready to be installed when failures occur. Fabricating stacker bars in the variety of configurations necessary to address these issues can also add to the cost of the process.

Pyrotek offers a patented stacker bar holder and a wide variety of inserts, specifically designed to work very well for the vast majority of containers that are manufactured all over the world. For normal ware—up to the size of, for example, a 20 ounce (0.6 liter) drink bottle—Pyrotek stacker bar holders and inserts can be relied upon to handle all challenges. In addition, Pyrotek provides solutions for the checking issues caused by larger glass ware.

At a time when economics dictate an increased diligence in improving melt-to-pack ratios and ensuring the absolute optimum quality for the end user, it is reassuring to know that there are cost-efficient solutions to deliver better quality and lower costs from preventive maintenance.

Stainless steel braided cloth, provided by Pyrotek, offers an excellent solution for concerns with larger ware handling. Typical life of a well engineered and built stacker bar, with stainless steel material as the ware contact surface, can exceed six months nominal. Pyrotek can engineer and supply a full stacker bar, ready to fit into your process with all the mounting hardware pre-installed. In addition, Pyrotek can supply replacement stainless steel cloth, either as a replacement for the original material, or as a retro-fit option to your existing stacker bars. These materials can be supplied in a range of widths and thickness, ready to cut your costs and improve the final quality of your most challenging products.

Stainless steel material is already being used effectively at several customer locations, and Pyrotek sales engineers can provide reference testimonials of successful applications where process performance has been improved. Contact your Pyrotek sales engineer to demonstrate the real value for your process.

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