

PRESS ARTICLE

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Leading in aseptic PET filling: Sidel celebrates three years of FDA validation for its Aseptic Combi Predis



In 2017, the Sidel Aseptic Combi Predis™ blow fill seal filler was validated by the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for low acid products sold in the US – an industry first. With more than 180 references at major beverage and dairy companies since the launch of this safe and simple solution in early 2000, the repeated orders recorded by this technology underline its success.

Since the first FDA approval, many beverage and dairy players, located in the US, Asia and South America, have trusted Sidel's proven dry preform decontamination technology to develop their business in the US. This customer success reflects the global achievements collected by Predis technology since its launch: it has decontaminated more than 60 billion bottles, while saving over 10 billion litres of water and 60,000 tons of PET. The Aseptic Combi Predis differs from former aseptic bottling technologies because the PET package sterilisation already takes place at the preform stage rather than during the bottling phase. The solution marks an important step towards a sustainable production because it does not require any water and uses only a minimal amount of chemicals: its blower oven activates the sterilising effect of the hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) vapour, thus eliminating the need for additional heating of the preforms, saving further on resources.

Designed to offer maximum safety and simplicity

The Sidel Aseptic Combi Predis contributes to production simplicity and reliability, because a line with a small sterile zone and minimum critical factors is managed and maintained more safely, easily and effectively. The dry preform sterilisation before the oven prevents re-

Contact:

F&H Porter Novelli
Tel: +49 (0) 89 121 75 123
sidel@fundh.de

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contamination and avoids the need for blow moulder sterilisation. It also eliminates the constraints related to the bottle shape's complexity. Therefore, the solution is able to handle bottle formats from 200 ml to 3 L with any shape. For greater flexibility, format changeovers are easy and fast, taking only one minute per mould. In its latest generation – the Versatile Aseptic Combi Predis – the solution is even able to manage still beverages and carbonated soft drinks in PET on one piece of equipment.

Global leadership role in sensitive beverages and liquid dairy production

Trusting in this patented solution, players across the globe have taken up the opportunity to acquire the Sidel aseptic blow fill seal system to manufacture and distribute shelf-stable low acid products in PET bottles. Those include milk and liquid dairy products, plus dairy alternatives and plant-based beverages, like soya milk and coconut drinks. On top of being compliant with the FDA's current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) requirements and bearing the 3-A certification for its sanitary design since 2017, the solution has also been approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), a must-have for selling sensitive products in the Canadian market.

“With the world's first FDA-approved aseptic solution with dry preform sterilisation on the market three years ago, Sidel has been enjoying a continuously growing global leadership role in sensitive beverages and liquid dairy production technology. The high level of customer acceptance and the many repeat orders are due to the fact that our patented system is 100% safe and simple for the packaging of low acid sensitive products in PET bottles, sold through ambient chain. We are very proud of this big success,” says Guillaume Rolland, Vice President Sensitive Products at Sidel.

“Also, thanks to the great ease of operations offered by the solution, the FDA validation can be applied to upgrade the Aseptic Combi Predis already installed and running in customer plants. This opens the doors to new business opportunities for customers willing to start selling low acid products to the US,” concludes Rolland.

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For editorial, advertising and sponsorship enquiries, please contact:
F&H Porter Novelli
Nikolaus Schreck, Senior Consultant
Tel: +49 (0) 89 12175-123
Email: sidel@fundh.de

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Sidel is a leading provider of equipment and services solutions for packaging beverage, food, home and personal care products in PET, can, glass and other materials.

With over 40,000 machines installed in more than 190 countries, we have nearly 170 years of proven experience, with a strong focus on the factory of tomorrow with advanced systems, line engineering and innovation. Our 5,500+ employees worldwide are passionate about providing solutions that fulfil customer needs and boost the **performance** of their lines, products and businesses.

Delivering this level of performance requires that we stay flexible. We continuously ensure we **understand** our customers' changing challenges and commit to meeting their unique performance and sustainability goals. We do this through dialogue and by understanding the needs of their markets, production and value chains. In turn, we apply our solid technical knowledge and smart data analytics to ensure lifetime productivity reaches its full potential.

We call it **Performance through Understanding**.

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