TECHNICAL OPERATIONS BULLETIN NO. 54

RE. BREWERY BROCHURE CHAPTER II

Barrel Lining.

Introduction.

Beer is traditionally filled into oak casks which are freed of impurities in the wood which would impart a foreign flavour and odour.

In recent years the use of lining compositions has grown since many authorities have confirmed that distinct advantages are gained as regards ease of cleaning of returned empties and the greater safety margin in the keeping properties of the beer.

Development.

Berger barrel lining is now introduced to the trade after tests conducted in co-operation with a leading firm of brewers. These tests show that Berger Barrel Lining has withstood for two years not only the action of beer, but also the drastic laundering conditions which "empties" are subjected to after each journey round the trade.

Laboratory tests on pieces of oak coated with BBL showed that after 7 days immersion in beer the absorption was only 4% as compared with a figure of 15% for untreated wood. The coating showed no sign of whitening or loss of adhesion or elasticity. Further, there was no swelling of the grain of the wood.

Advantages.

(1) Reduces greatly the absorption by the wood of the cask contents. The wood thus holds little beer which can sour and contaminate subsequent contents of the cask.

(2) Minimises the leaching of essential oils and resins present in the wood into the beer.

(3) Reduces the swelling of the grain of the wood and hence the formation of splinters.

(4) Presents a smooth surface to the interior of the cask and thus facilitates the removal of sediment.

(5) Makes easier the maintenance of the cask in a sterile condition.

(6) Does not involve any change in the laundering of empties since it resists boiling water, salt, soda, bisulphite etc.

(7) Remains permanently adhesive, flexible and impermeable.

(8) Introduces no difficulty into the cooperage since casks, the staves of which have loosened, can be tightened and the lining will not chip or flake. In fact it tends to re-anneal itself.

Process.

1) Soak casks in dilute soda for 12 hours or overnight.
2) " " " " salt solution " " "
3) " " " clean water for 12 hours or overnight.
4) Pass through regular washing line.

(Contd.)

Process. (Contd.)

5) Drain and dry with hot air line.
6) Apply first coat of BBL thinned with an equal volume of special thinner by pouring a small quantity into cask and then rotating the cask in all directions. Drain off surplus and allow to dry overnight.
7) Apply second coat of BBL as in (6) above but without thinning the composition.
8) Air dry for 3 days.
9) Fill with water and age 3 days.
10) Pass through regular hot water cleansing line.
11) Fill.

General Data. Ref. No. BBL V7540
Thinner V7338
Colour Range Black only.

Manager - Technical Operations.