



solutions

CASINGS & PACKAGING MATERIALS / ViskoTeepak.com

ViskoTeepak's Wienie-Pak Production

This new series delves into the critical steps in Wienie-Pak applications, particularly focusing on hot dog production issues beyond casing.

What does ViskoTeepak do when a situation like this arises?

THE FINAL
ARTICLE OF
THE SERIES

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Productive Solutions in Lommel.

This publication is the last in a row of four articles where several casing issues are highlighted. This article focuses on the Wienie-Pak process in the Lommel facility, in relation to the end users' requirements.

The intention of this series of articles is not promotional in nature but could potentially be eye-openers for challenges related to the use of Wienie-Pak.

Inside the Lommel Plant

At the Lommel plant in Belgium, the making of Wienie-Pak casing starts from the basic material: paper (cellulose). Starting with wood pulp, and followed by a complicated chemical process lasting approximately 48 hours, we end up with a viscose mass. After that, it takes a few more hours to produce a cellulose tube on reels.

Although the process is complex, the final product is intended to be an “easy-to-use” solution for the operators working with the casing on stuffing machines.

A Wienie-Pak casing consists only of cellulose, and with this basic raw material, the Lommel plant produces over 3,000 different reelstock products.

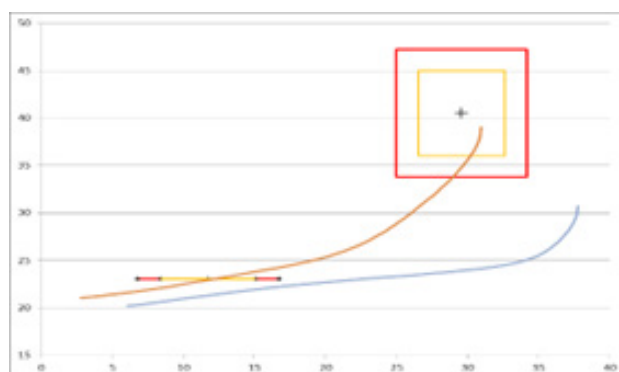
Below, you'll find some options that could positively affect the customer's efficiency. From a single basic viscose batch, ViskoTeepak can create various casing characteristics, such as:

- Calibres, defined at a certain stuffing pressure
- Construction of the casing with specific stuffing characteristics
- Coloured and window casings
- Stripes added to the casing for safety, processing, or marketing reasons

Calibres

The calibres listed in the product manual are recommended stuffing diameters (RSD) and range from 14 mm to 38 mm.

RSD means that a certain pressure inside the casing corresponds to a consistent diameter. It's essentially a memory the casing holds. Even when internal pressure slightly fluctuates, the casing retains the RSD. For that reason, it's better to speak about a stuffing window (or stuffing box).



1. The graph shows the relationship between casing pressure (X-axis) and casing caliber (Y-axis) of two different casing constructions.

For older, less accurate stuffing machines, it may be recommended to use a casing that is less sensitive for pressure fluctuations (as shown by the blue line in the graphic).

In addition to RSD, the shape of the sausages is determined during stuffing. Stuffing methods are typically described as:

- **Slack** (under RSD)
- **Medium**
- **Hard** (over RSD)

Customers have their own reasons for choosing a certain stuffing method. For example:

- Slack stuffing is often used for canned products with brine. The under-stuffed sausages absorb brine during sterilization, growing to the RSD.
- Advantage: easy loading of links into jars or cans, resulting in juicy sausages with long shelf life.
- Medium stuffing (RSD) allows fine-tuned control of the product weight.
- Hard stuffing helps prevent wrinkling when the casing stays on the sausage. This is often used with printed casings that are peeled off later by the consumer.

It's important to note that there is a direct correlation between stuffed calibre, sausage processing, and casing peelability. Each of these steps can influence the others—positively or negatively.

Relaxation of the casing immediately after stuffing is also important for strand condition.

A hard-stuffed sausage that quickly turns slack may indicate low humidity in the strand, making it more sensitive to overstuffing. On the other hand, slack stuffing combined with standard machine settings and air pockets in the links can point to a casing with a high flat width (FW).

Construction

The Lommel plant mainly produces three different casing constructions, each of which impacts casing performance:

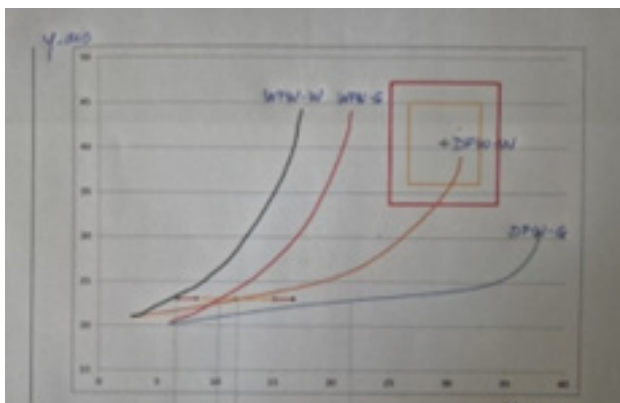
- **O-type:** the standard, “middle-of-the-road” product
- **W-type:** the more flexible option
- **G-type:** the stiffer version

These different Wienie-Pak types can be compared to balloon shapes—some are flexible, others hold a straight form.



Internally, there's ongoing discussion about the specific utility of these types. One traditional reason for their development is to bridge the gap between code sizes. For medium and large Wienie-Pak sizes, codes increase by 1 mm steps. W-types (+0.3 mm) and G-types (−0.3 mm) help fill those gaps. In contrast, some competitors use so-called “half sizes.”

Construction type also affects peelability. For example, the W-construction has less tension between DFW and WFW, which can help improve peelability in demanding applications like mini salamis.



Difference in tension between DFW and WFW in G & W casing

The wide range of calibres and constructions also helps define the weight and length of sausages, allowing products to better fit packaging preferences.

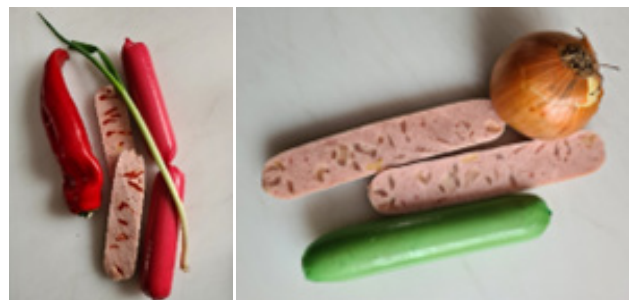
Colors / stripes

Colored Wienie-Pak casings serve various purposes:

- **Safety:** In peel applications, leftover casing fragments are easier to spot—either visually or by detection systems.
- **Processing:** Different colours help distinguish products when multiple types are cooked at the same time.
- **Marketing:** Colours can highlight special products like vegan sausages or limited editions, especially when combined with printed designs.

In addition to full-colour casings, there are two other options: window casings and striped casings.

Window casing is a variation of full-coloured casing that includes a transparent section—covering about 25% of the surface. This allows operators to visually check the sausage surface after smoking.



Striped casings can be used for several reasons:

- **Safety:** Help detect leftover casing fragments during the peeling process.
- **Processing:** Make it easier to identify different products when several types are cooked together in one automatic cooking line or trolley.
- **Historical:** Traditionally, the colour and number of stripes were used to identify the source (producer) of a product.
- **Supplier identification:** Allow producers and processors to distinguish between casings from different suppliers, helping to evaluate performance and functionality.

At ViskoTeepak, we believe that a casing should adapt to your process—not the other way around. The Wienie-Pak range reflects our commitment to delivering tailor-made solutions that support your daily operations and long-term goals.



Always around

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