

FIBROUS UPDATES:

- » ViskoTeepak Elevates Standards with Advanced Spiral Shirring Technology
- » Introducing Aziridine-Free Water-Based Printing Inks for Enhanced Casing Adhesion



Read more

What's going on in the Fibrous world?

At ViskoTeepak, we're dedicated to pioneering excellence in food packaging. Through our commitment to innovation, we've transformed fibrous shirring technology, enhancing product quality and efficiency. Our recent adoption of spiral shirring and development of aziridine-free printing inks reflect our ongoing efforts to exceed industry standards. Join us as we explore our journey in advancing fibrous shirring and ink innovation, shaping the future of food packaging.

Transforming shirring technology

ViskoTeepak is focusing on very high standards when it comes to fibrous shirring. To achieve these standards, we rely on the latest technology, something we have developed ourselves.

Several years ago, ViskoTeepak made the switch from paddle and screw shirring to spiral shirring with our own modifications. Thanks to these modifications, we have been able to use larger mandrels on certain occasions, resulting in a larger inside diameter, more meters on a strand, and increased flexibility in using highly moisturized treatments. All these modifications can help our customers produce higher quality products or increase capacity without the need for additional stuffing machines or personnel.

In 2020, ViskoTeepak acquired ViskoPol in Poland. While this was a significant achievement, it also posed a challenge as the shirring machines in use were based on paddle shirring technology. Due to the high shirring standards at ViskoTeepak, it was not possible to utilize the company's shirring capacity fully or to produce tailor-made products required for the highly demanding market. So it was time for a conversion....



The Delfzijl location has extensive experience in introducing spiral shirring, and following the success at the U.S. location, we began the conversion to spiral shirring in Poland. This year, we successfully completed the final conversion to spiral shirring at ViskoTeepak Poznan in Poland. Now, all fibrous shirring machines have been converted to spiral shirring, allowing us to provide even more tailor-made products worldwide.

New water-based printing inks

New water-based printing inks that are aziridine-free and compliant with all food contact regulations, ensuring optimal ink adhesion on all casings.

Our proactive approach began in April 2019, when we initiated testing of aziridine-free inks with two suppliers. By mid-October 2022, initial results were unsatisfactory, necessitating further development.

The ink development process for ViskoTeepak fibrous casing presented unforeseen challenges for both suppliers. Achieving optimal ink adhesion on all casings within a tight time frame proved particularly daunting. Despite extensive testing, practical limitations hindered one supplier's ability to achieve desired results.

After more than a year of rigorous testing and collaboration with suppliers, a breakthrough was achieved. By the end of 2023, ViskoTeepak Delfzijl seamlessly transitioned 100% to the new aziridine-free ink, surpassing the quality of the previous ink. This success was attributed to the exemplary teamwork among the ink supplier, ViskoTeepak R&D chemist, and fibrous and printing engineers in Delfzijl.

The knowledge gained during testing proved invaluable, prompting exploration of the ink's applicability on plastic casing. Promising results from initial trials in Delfzijl have spurred Kenosha's interest in adopting the new ink, offering potential optimization of their printing process. Additionally, Nuevo Laredo is considering the same ink, fostering uniformity among sites, and facilitating mutual support in printing-related matters.

