

Tipperary meets goals with TierStack racks

Tipperary Natural Mineral Water, a major HOD company in Ireland now uses **Polymer Solutions International's** plastic TierStack modular racking system for its operations in Ireland. The firm produces and distributes the Tipperary water brand in 18.9 and 11.5 litre bottles throughout the country.

Its main motivation to convert to Polymer Solutions was to reduce bottle and truck damage caused by other racking systems and improve operational efficiencies. The conversion that began over three years ago has brought about positive results, as General Manager, Peter Cooney, explains: "We have found vast improvements in our bottle life and appearance. The TierStack is miles ahead of our incumbent steel stillages, which just didn't stand up to the day to day battering of a busy workload."



Ongoing repair expenses and safety issues associated with metal racks have also been eliminated. "At a fraction of the cost and with virtually no repairs needed, we have been purchasing TierStacks racks for the last three years and have had to dispose of only two of them due to forklift negligence," continued Cooney.

A further benefit is the increased efficiency in manufacturing and external field activities. "We use a Bardi that can bottle up to 1,000 bottles per hour with a robot which works perfectly with the TierStack system," he concluded. "We no longer run into problems resulting from the steel stillages, which used to get easily damaged and weren't as dimensionally exact as the TierStacks."

Bottling water since 1990, Tipperary is part of bottling manufacturing company the **Gleeson Group**, which employs over 700 people in Ireland and has an annual turnover of €300 million. The group's portfolio consists of mineral water, as well as soft drinks, cider, whiskey, crème liqueur and freeze pops. Tipperary has been awarded five British Bottlers Institute Gold Medals for excellence.

Polymer Solutions supplies its ProStack and TierStack rack systems to over 40 countries worldwide. The firm will be exhibiting at the EBWA show in Poland in October.



Tipperary met Polymer Solutions at the EBWA show in Antwerp, Belgium, several years ago. "After evaluating all of the choices of plastic racks, we chose the TierStack because of the obvious

superior durability and features," said Cooney. "It sits well on our fleet of trucks, doesn't damage our truck bay floors or sides and is very easy to transport due to its versatile reconfiguration."

The modular design of the racks allows users to adjust the layers to fit their exact requirements. "Depending on the route and the season we have the option of stacking the TierStack racks four layers high on the truck, which we have found very beneficial. We have six, eight and 10 stillage trucks, all of which can accommodate an extra layer when needed."