

MATERIALS HANDLING IN THE BREWING INDUSTRY

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Until around 1978/9 all kegs were handled on pallets, with manual handling at the end of the line. A packaging manager working for Joshua Tetley Leeds then asked the German attachment manufacturer, Kaup, if they could manufacture a clamp to handle kegs and casks. After extensive trials the keg clamp was introduced to the marketplace and the brewing industry quickly began to realise the enormous savings to be made by not using pallets.

Nowadays, the keg clamp can handle all types of kegs and casks. It is an indispensable tool for the brewing industry providing excellent visibility, fast, reliable operation and durable construction. Standard features include low profile stabiliser with long lasting rubber pads; wear indicators on tines, solenoid valve and end of stroke cushioning on sideshift movement.

OPERATIONS

There are two distinct operations within the keg handling industry

Brewery

A brewery is usually a 24-hour operation, 365 days per year handling full unit loads.

Distribution

Distribution is not usually a 24-hour operation. The clamp truck removes the full unit loads from vehicle to warehouse but then splits the load to make up various loads for the local delivery vehicles.

FEATURES & BENEFITS

Keg clamps, such as those manufactured by Kaup, are robustly made and provide excellent visibility and fast, reliable operation. They enable a secure grip of kegs and casks and allow for easy pallet handling without the removal of the centre tine.

MAINTENANCE

To ensure a long life, keg clamps should undergo regular maintenance, at least once a year. Key factors relating to servicing are:

All tines should be notched to provide wear indication to ensure that tines are changed when wear becomes excessive.

Keg clamps are the ultimate solution for improving product handling. They also reduce maintenance costs and ensure less shock loading to trucks as well as providing high productivity, faster switching between jobs and increasing driver confidence.

Case Study

When Coors Brewers decided to approach Linde to provide it with 158 new Linde standard 393 fork lift trucks on full maintenance contract hire, it was to B&B Attachments that Linde turned for the supply and servicing of attachments. B&B Attachments has supplied 49 Kaup keg clamps to Coors main brewery in Burton on Trent, the largest brewery in the UK, as well as the company's other sites at Tadcaster in Yorkshire and Alton in Hampshire.

"Three years prior to our signing the contract with Linde we spent £40,000 on damage to clamps and attachments", said Rob Evans, Principal Engineering Manager at Coors Brewers. "Now, due to the new Linde trucks and Kaup attachments as well as driver training and the response time from B&B such costs have dropped 75%".



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