

# **Case Study:** Washer Cable System Eliminates Tipped Can Spoilage



## **Problem Overview:**

A multi-line, 2-piece Aluminum can plant in North America was experiencing high rates (>1%) of tipped-can spoilage in their 20 to 30-year-old Cincinnati washers. Cans were tipping on both sides of the can-pack, primarily in stages 1 and 2, caused by the high-pressure nozzles spraying from top and bottom.

## **Problem Scenario 1:**

The Valu Guides originally installed on the washers were damaged through years of use, leaving them warped and unable to retain the can-pack through the length of the washer. As a result, the plant reduced the width of the can-pack entering each washer so the Valu Guides no longer contacted the sides of the can-pack.

## **Problem Scenario 2:**

The line was converted from 211 diameter to 204 (Sleek) diameter cans. There was no speed-up associated with the size change and because the diameter of a 204 is smaller than a 211, the pack-width decreased as it went through the washer. With a decreased pack width, the Valu Guides in the washer (originally designed for 211) did not support the sides of the 204 can-pack.

## **Challenge:**

An estimate to repair (or reconfigure) the Valu Guides in each washer included high OEM costs, as well as 2+ days of down-time resulting from the need to drain tanks and pull mats (or remove hold down mats) in stages 1 and 2.

## **Solution & Result:**

IPS TightPACK (washer cable) systems were installed in less than 12-hours of down time per washer. The installation did not require the washer to be drained or mat to be pulled. The TightPACK systems consisted of 3-4 adjustable, coated stainless-steel cables running down both sides of the washer. After installation, the TightPACK cables on both sides of the washer were easily adjusted to provide consistent side support to the can-pack through the washer. After installation, the tipped-can spoilage in the washers reduced to near-zero. The TightPACK systems in this plant have now been operational for over seven years.

**Contact Integrated Packaging Solutions to see how we can help reduce your washer spoilage**

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