

# Production repeatability improves with INTERGLASS interface control



**C**ontinuous production can create an impression of stability. A line may run without interruption while small variations accumulate inside the process. Their effect tends to appear later: repeatability starts to move, wear develops unevenly, and interventions become more frequent. Stability therefore has to be engineered and maintained.

## INTERFACE CONTROL

In glass forming, machine design, temperature regimes and production speed establish the operating conditions. Their effect converges at a physical interface: the point where hot glass meets the forming equipment. Mould, metal, coating, application and operating conditions come together there. That contact has a direct influence

on how consistently the process behaves from cycle to cycle. The direction of the industry makes this interface increasingly important. Higher throughput and longer production runs leave less room to absorb deviation. Conditions that could once be corrected during operation can begin to affect continuity much earlier. As operating windows tighten, the quality of contact becomes part of the stability of the line. Friction is inherent to that contact. Managing it as an operating variable gives the process another point of control, alongside temperature, timing and application. This requires consistency and observation. A variable that is not measured is not controlled. When friction changes across cycles, the effects can travel through the process long before they appear as an obvious failure.

## OPERATING SIGNALS

At the interface, relatively small changes can matter. Application frequency, distribution across the surface, the

In the following op-ed, INTERLUB GROUP Chief International Growth Officer Joaquin Morodo explains how process stability in glass forming begins at the point of contact, where friction, lubrication, mould condition and operating parameters all influence repeatability, wear, intervention frequency, traceability and long-term control across successive production cycles.

condition of the mould and the behaviour of the lubricating film influence how contact develops over successive cycles. None of these conditions remains isolated. Changes in one can alter the response of the others, which is why stability depends on understanding the interaction rather than observing a single parameter. The first signs are often familiar on the production floor. Repeatability declines. Defect



patterns shift. Intervention frequency rises. An adjustment that previously held for days begins to hold for hours. Each signal may seem minor in isolation. Read together, they show that the process is consuming operating margin. The point of contact therefore becomes a useful source of information about the condition of the system. This changes the role of lubrication in glass forming. Lubrication becomes one of the mechanisms through which contact is governed over time. Its performance can be read through the stability it helps sustain across repeated cycles: predictable surface interaction, consistent application conditions and longer intervals between corrective actions.

## CONTAINERS

**PROCESS MEMORY**

That perspective also changes the questions worth asking on the line. Immediate effect still matters, although it tells only part of the story. The stronger measure is what happens after hundreds or thousands of cycles. Does the interface behave consistently? Do operating conditions remain within the expected window? Can changes in wear, application or friction be identified early enough

to act before they propagate through production? Once contact is treated this way, repeatability and traceability become more useful. Variation can be connected to operating conditions instead of disappearing into the general complexity of the process. Over time, this also creates a more useful operational record. Patterns can be compared between runs, changes can be related to specific conditions, and interventions can be assessed against what hap-

pened afterwards. Production knowledge becomes easier to retain and apply. Glass forming will continue to demand more continuity and efficiency from the same physical interactions. That places greater pressure on the interfaces where the process is actually carried out. Governing those interfaces with greater consistency will become increasingly important as operating margins narrow. Stability is a managed condition. In glass forming, every finished container carries the history of the contact conditions that shaped it. ■

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