

See-through peelable ends from Switzerland

Swiss film manufacturer Kleiner has relaunched its peelable easy-open lid design with a new name and a high-profile customer. Compeel – which uses a high-barrier multilayer plastics film – was first revealed with canmaking equipment manufacturer Soudronic two years ago and is now called Canpeel. “It is ready for the market,” said managing director Martin Kleiner, who revealed that a see-through version is being developed. A number of customers have been experimenting with the use of Canpeel, but Swiss confectionary and herbal tea specialist Ricola is changing its packaging to exploit the benefits. Martin Messerli, head of supply chain management at Ricola, said, “We will be switching totally in 2008 to cans with Canpeel lids. We expect to use 14 million this year. “Ricola stands for the highest possible quality and the same goes for the packaging.” Reasons for Ricola using Canpeel on decorated cans made by fellow Swiss firm Hoffmann Neopac are that they feature strong branding, are easy to open, safe to use and produce an aroma seal, a key feature for products that are based on the subtle flavours of herbal extracts. Although similar to other peelable foil lids that use aluminium membranes, Canpeel is made from a composite lami-



Ricola's Martin Messerli, pictured with Martin Kleiner (right), has chosen Canpeel lids for his firm's range of herbal teas and sweets

nate in a number of configurations depending on the applications. Fabrication of the ends at Kleiner's factory at Wohlen is carried out on a Soudronic Uniseal machine, which in this case takes formed ends and heat seals the film to the ring. A key feature of the lid is the rolled inner edge which protects the metal from the product and also makes the lid safer for the consumer to use. Tabs are now lightly glued to the film to prevent snagging in a retort. Two versions of the Canpeel lid are offered by Kleiner. First is the TPL which is suitable for dry foods and technical products, and those with sharp corners. Typically it is used for coffee (with which a degasser from Bosch can be applied), milk powder along with snacks, dried

soups and nuts or dried fruit. A corrosion-protected alternative is called TPLL.

One interesting application is for the Italian coffee firm Illy, which is using cans with Canpeel ends for packing capsules of coffee used in machines. Norway's Coop is also using the lids for its Sjoko-vanije instant coffee. A more complex version of Canpeel has been developed for sterilised products such as fish, meat, ready meals, salads and pet food. This uses a four-layer construction with an aluminium foil sandwiched by PET. A sealing layer enables the film to be bonded to lacquered or polyester-coated tin-free steel, which is why its called TFS. It is suitable for counter-pressure retorts and is US FDA compliant, which is partly why it has been used by Swiss deli producer Traitafina for a gourmet corned beef product in 73mmdiameter decorated cans. Next step for Kleiner, whose main business is printing films for flexible packaging, is to offer licences for the manufacturer of the films and the complete lids. But to tempt a wider range of customers a transparent version of the barrier film, enabling the product to be viewed, will be demonstrated at Interpack in Germany at the end of April.

More information from Kleiner Flexible Packaging, Schutzenmatweg 26, Wohlen, CH-5610, Switzerland. 41 056 618 47 00. Fax: 41 056 618 47 01.