

Handling Frozen Containers

BBPA General Guidelines

Health & Safety

Brewers & Licensed Retailers Association Code of Practice, 1994, (Now BBPA)

in Compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act, includes the following entry:

- "Distributors who store and deliver beer in kegs, and operators who store and dispense beer from kegs, should ensure that the combined effect of gas content, temperature and secondary fermentation even under abnormal or tropical conditions does not cause the internal pressure of kegs to exceed the Safe Working Pressure.
- Care should be taken to **avoid freezing of kegs and their contents**, as this can produce excessive pressure. All personnel having control over kegs at any point in the distribution chain should be instructed that where this has occurred, or is suspected to have occurred, no attempt should be made to handle the container(s) but to report immediately to the brewery concerned. When the supplier is other than the brewery then the supplier should also receive the report."

Industry Code of Practice

- In order that we comply with the Code of Practice and maintain our obligations under the Health & Safety at Work Act, the following action is advised in respect of containers found frozen in BREWERY STORAGE, DEPOT, TRANSIT or OUTLET
- Ensure that all frozen containers in Licensed Premises and Depots are labelled for return as "Frozen Containers". They must NOT, on thawing, be made available for onward transmission or dispense under any circumstances.
- Containers found totally frozen may have suffered undue mechanical stress/damage and should be returned bearing a Frozen Container Label.
- Frozen containers should not be moved until Thawed Completely, in order to avoid causing conditions which may lead to pressure relief from within the container via the extractor head. **Containers should be stored prior to return with spears facing a wall, or upside down.**
- Containers should not be loaded for return until they have Totally Thawed and should be loaded with the spears facing inwards with Frozen Container label attached.

Industry Code of Practice

- Where it is necessary to remove containers for essential reasons, such containers, even after thawing, should be handled with extreme care, avoiding any severe physical impact or damage.
- Prudence dictates the opportunity be recognised to remind Licensees of the danger involved when tampering with containers which are under pressure and against the repeated dangers of attempting spear removal, the incorrect use of CO2 cylinders and other Beer Dispense Equipment.
- Whenever in the vicinity of, or handling kegs that are suspected of having been exposed to extreme conditions (heat/freezing) eye protection (goggles) must be worn