

Tetra Pak extends paper-based barrier packaging to high-speed packaging lines in Asia

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Tetra Pak has taken another step forward in sustainable packaging by expanding its innovative paper-based barrier technology to high-speed Tetra Pak A3/Speed filling lines, with Maeil Dairies becoming the first producer globally to implement the solution for its soy milk. This milestone aligns with a broader shift across the food and beverage industry, where producers are accelerating the transition towards low-carbon, renewable packaging materials.

Developed to replace the aluminium foil layer used in aseptic cartons, the new paper-based barrier maintains comparable levels of food protection and shelf life. When combined with plant-based polymers derived from sugarcane, the Tetra Brik Aseptic 200 Slim carton used with Maeil Soy Milk 99.9 product in South Korea achieved 87 per cent renewable content and delivered a 26 per cent reduction in package carbon footprint, as verified by the Carbon Trust.¹

A key milestone of this launch in Asia is that Maeil Dairies is the first producer globally to implement packaging material with the new paper-based barrier on a Tetra Pak A3/Speed filling machine, demonstrating that the technology is now fully compatible with high-speed industrial production. The Tetra Pak A3/Speed delivers high package outputs of up to 24,000 packages per hour with low operational costs, enabling large-scale deployment while keeping high food safety standards. Moreover, existing Tetra Pak A3/Speed lines can be easily upgraded with a high-frequency induction² heating sealing system, allowing producers to adopt the new packaging material without significant capital investment.

Tatiana Liceti, Executive Vice President, Packaging Solutions at Tetra Pak, said: “Scaling sustainable packaging solutions should go hand in hand with operational efficiency. By bringing our paper-based barrier to high-performing Tetra Pak A3/Speed packaging lines, we are offering beverage producers an opportunity to adopt a low-carbon packaging solution based on renewable materials while maintaining food protection and cost³ competitiveness.”

The new package for Maeil Soy Milk 99.9 marks the first use of Tetra Pak’s paper-based barrier in the plant-based beverages category. Maeil Dairies, a longstanding innovator in the plant-based beverage market, sees the move as a natural continuation of its sustainability journey.

Inki Lee, Chief Operating Officer at Maeil Dairies, commented: “Maeil Dairies has pioneered the domestic low-sugar soy milk segment, establishing a leading position in the market. Introducing new packaging on our Soy Milk 99.9 line reflects our ongoing commitment to innovation and environmental responsibility. Our collaboration with Tetra Pak enables us to drive meaningful, forward-looking change that will benefit consumers and future generations alike.”