

Handle Integrity Testing

In this test the filled package is clamped or physically held down while the gripping device holds the handle. The instrument pulls the multi-pack carrier handle until it fails. A load cell measures the force as the handle is pulled to failure. The result of the test includes the peak force at failure and a description of the location of the handle failure.

The generally accepted rule in beverage packaging is that the force required to cause handle failure must be at least 3 times the weight of the package.

Wet handle strength testing is performed by submerging a filled package in water for 3 minutes, then testing the handle strength as in the dry test. Naturally the paperboard and glue used in the package must be designed for a wet environment. In addition to board and glue, package design is very important for adequate wet performance.

