

## The Alpal™ Increases Efficiencies for Bulk Food Processing

### CAPE NATURAL TEA CASE STUDY



Cape Natural Tea Products (CNTP), a major supplier of indigenous African teas, was founded in 1996 as a joint partnership between farmers and marketers. With facilities in the Western Cape, they process about 2000 tons of tea herbs every year. Their main product is the Rooibos tea, which is grown only in South Africa, and with it, they sell a full line of teas under their house brand Intaba Teas of Africa. Over the years, CNTP has established itself as a premier custom blender and shipper of tea products worldwide.

Dedicated to food safety, CNTP was one of the first Rooibos companies to implement HACCP standard guidelines within their processing operation and their commitment to environmentally sensitive practices is evidenced by their organic certification. With the demand for tea rising, CNTP found it necessary to implement a more efficient packaging system that would still meet their strict food safety guidelines.

### Improved Productivity for the Tea Industry

Raw materials that are brought into the CNTP processing facilities are sorted, pasteurized, graded, packed, and inspected. Before introducing the Alpal into their operations, significant time and manpower was allocated to packing product into 18kg paper bags. The average bag took 3 minutes to fill, requiring one worker to be present at all times to start and stop the filling equipment, seal the filled bag, and replace it with a new one. With 25 bags per pallet, many workers were needed to continually fill, seal, and stack 25 individual bags on each pallet put into storage.

Always looking for innovative ways to improve their operation, CNTP looked to using the Alpal instead of paper bags. With the ProBin™ Alpal from Macro Plastics, CNTP is able to fill one Alpal with 500kg of product with the flip of just one switch. Every 90 minutes an Alpal can be moved into storage while the next is put in place to be filled. The use of the Alpal has allowed CNTP to reduce their manpower needs by one operator and drastically improve their productivity.



LABOR-INTENSIVE PROCESS OF FILLING BAGS



FAST AND EASY FILLING WITH THE ALPAL



GREATER STORAGE CAPACITY WITH THE ALPAL



INCREASED STACK HEIGHT / GREATER STABILITY

## Increased Storage Efficiencies

Use of the Alpal from Macro Plastics has not only improved their productivity, but it has also increased the amount of product they could store. At CNTP, it took 25 18kg paper bags to fill a pallet, which totals 450kg of product. In comparison, each Alpal can be packed with up to 500kg of tea. The Alpal takes up the same amount of space as a pallet, but it allows CNTP to fit an extra 50kg of product into the storage space of one container.

The Alpal has also become CNTP's preferred method of storage because, with interlocking feet, the Alpals are easier to align and can be stacked faster and higher than pallets. CNTP can stack Alpals four high compared to 3 pallets per stack.

**The use of Alpals has enabled Cape Natural Tea Products to increase their storage capacity by more than 48 percent.**

Macro Plastics has been driven by a spirit of innovation since the early '90s, when MacroBins® were first introduced to the wine and stone fruit markets of California. With a continuing vision to diversify through innovative products and services, Macro Plastics has expanded globally into the agriculture, food processing, retail, and industrial packaging markets.

Macro Plastics' ProBin family of products was created to meet the specific requirements of the food processing industry. Featuring the lightweight and collapsible Alpal and injection-molded plastic solid-wall containers, all ProBins are durable, easy to clean, and made with FDA-approved materials that are certified safe for food products.

STORAGE CAPACITY WITH  
**Alpal**  
 4 Alpals per stack  
 x 500kg per Alpal  
 = 2 tons of product in a stack

STORAGE CAPACITY WITH  
**Paper Bags**  
 3 pallets per stack  
 x 450kg per pallet  
 = 1.35 tons of product in a stack