

Smaller kitchen – more room for passengers

Drinking water dispensers in aeroplanes replace Tetrapacks[®] and bottles

Millions of passengers are served by German flight crews every year. From soft drinks like coffee and tea to mineral water and tomato juice – beverages are what is in demand. The reason: in the aeroplane the air humidity is extremely low. Adults and children have an increased need for fluids and have to drink a lot – water or diluted juices are best.

Cold beverages from dispensers

Soon travellers can make use of a new type of drink provision in aeroplanes. Up until now, juices or soft drinks were served from Tetrapacks[®] and bottles. In the future, flight attendants can also tap cold beverages from centrally located dispensers in the onboard kitchens.

This is made possible by a drink system especially constructed for aeroplanes, which is installed in the cargo hold and centrally serves the entire onboard kitchen. Flight attendants take orders from the passengers and send these orders to the dispensing area. A waiter dispenses the drink and the attendants carry it back to the passenger.

Smaller onboard kitchen – more room for passengers

Tetrapacks[®], coffee pots and bottles take up extra room. An Airbus A320/300 seats around 310 people. During a long-haul flight each passenger drinks approximately 1.5 litres. This means a projected 465 litres of fluid per flight which must be transported in cooling units in the onboard kitchens. With the new system, this storage space is no longer necessary; the onboard kitchens can be built smaller and the cabins enlarged. An additional row of seats can be installed in an Airbus 320/300. A further eight passengers would have room in the aircraft.

Filtering, cooling and purifying tap water

Reimund Müller, developer of the system and specialised dealer of CARBONIT Filtertechnik GmbH explains how the centralised dispenser works. "Tetrapacks[®] and bottles disappear from the onboard kitchen. Instead there is a central dispensing unit. Cold beverages such as fizzy drinks, water or juice spritzers come out of the tap on demand. Tap water is filtered, cooled and if desired, carbonated and syrup is added to taste."

Are the systems safe?

"Drink tap water? Many passengers are sceptical. Not without cause, then after all the drinking water is being transported in containers. Even though the containers are refilled before every flight, the water does stand, enabling germs and bacteria to grow."

Can consumers quench their thirst without worrying? "Yes," says the system's developer. The reason: inside the machine there is a TÜV tested activated carbon block filter from CARBONIT Filtertechnik GmbH in Salzwedel (Saxony Anhalt). It is considered a highly safe way of producing clean water without the use of chemicals, extracting not only the possible bacteria, but also the unwanted flavours. The requirements of the European Drinking Water Regulation (TrinkwV) are therefore more than fulfilled.

CARBONIT is not only suitable to use above the clouds. The products made by the company from Saxony Anhalt include a filter to chemically treat lime-scale, a small travel filter and a filter for the household tap or for installation in the central water system. Carbonit is a member of the Westa Group in Gütersloh and has an average annual increase in turnover of 30 percent.

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