BREWERS ASSOCIATION
CRAFT BEER RESEARCH
AND SERVICE GRANT

PROPOSAL REQUEST FOR CAN LINER PERFORMANCE RESEARCH

Submission Deadline: May 31, 2021
Application Website: https://www.brewersassociation.org/programs/grants/
Time frame: To be determined.

Research Question:
What concentration and combination of compounds found in beer result in aluminum can liner failure?

Proposal Summary:
Craft brewers are producing and canning a wide range of craft beers, as well as beverages such as kombucha, ready to drink cocktails, and cider. To our knowledge, directional guidance on liner compatibility for a range of beer styles does not exist. Can liner manufacturers generally do not test specific brands but use “simulants” which may or may not translate to actual packaged product. The Brewers Association seeks to identify the types and combination of non-traditional beer compounds that pose a risk to beer quality and package performance. For consideration, these compounds include:

- High ethanol concentration (>6% ABV)
- Organic acids (acetic and lactic, separately and at concentrations typical of sour beer)
- Sulfur dioxide (1 – 30 ppm)*
- Sodium levels (25 – 150 ppm)*
- Chloride levels (50 – 250 ppm)*
- Copper levels (0.01 – 0.80 ppm)*

*Ranges reported in beer, though higher concentrations may exist.

Initial Project Scope:
A focus on organic acids will be of greatest need and impact as testing methods, such as titratable acidity, are readily available to brewers of all sizes. Additional factors and combinations will be useful, but of secondary importance in the initial project scope. Common commercial aluminum can liners should be tested, including acrylic and BPA-NI epoxy. Priority will be given to institutions requesting conservative amounts of funding dollars. This project will be the first step towards understanding can liner performance across a range of craft beers. The findings from this study will be used to inform the quality methods and beverage specifications that brewers use to predict package performance for their brands.

For additional information contact:
Chuck Skypeck
Technical Brewing Projects Manager
Brewers Association
chuck@brewersassociation.org