

Report: The Coca - Cola Company

Wilrijk

18-09-2008

Welcoming:

When we arrived at the Coca-Cola Company we received a warm welcome. We got drinks and sandwiches. Afterwards they showed us a film about the beginning of Coca-Cola. After this film we got some information about the different drinks that are produced by Coca-Cola. And we played a quiz about the influence of Coca-Cola on the environment. Then we went inside the factory to see the production process and the factory itself.

Production of Coca-Cola:

Everything starts in the production hall of Coca-Cola. The whole production process is automated, so everything goes really fast. But the product has to fulfil some expectations concerning health and safety. Below I will tell more about the process.

Processing of the raw materials:

Before we can talk about soda we need to have some basic materials, these materials are systematically composed out of following ingredients:

- water
- sugar and other sweeteners
- possibly carbon dioxide
- fruit or vegetable concentrate
- aromas
- additives

These ingredients have to meet the Belgian and European legalisation and also the quality criteria of the Coca-Cola company called the TCCQS (the Coca-Cola Quality System). When these raw materials meet these quality standards they have to be stored under the right circumstances. This means that they have big tanks and cooling rooms where they can store the raw materials.

The preparation of a soda:

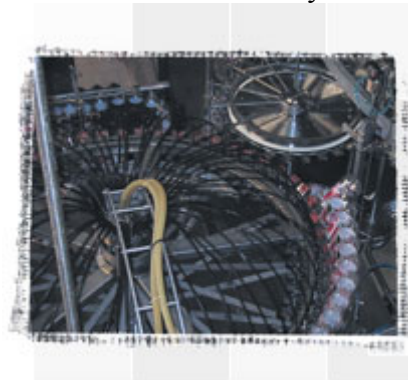
Before they obtain the real soda, they first make a sort of syrup. This syrup is in fact sugar that has been dissolved into syrup. After it becomes syrup, they extract all the bad parts in the syrup so that they obtain a nice clean syrup. To this syrup they add the fruit or vegetable concentrate. When this is done, everything goes into a syrup barrel where it is stored for use. When they want to make the actual soda, they add the syrup to water and carbon dioxide, this all goes into a mixing pump where it is prepared and then becomes soda with the right taste. This syrup is a very important part of the process because it gives the right taste to your soda.

The packaging of the soda:

When the soda is made they have to put it into bottles. They can use glass bottles or plastic bottles. When they use glass bottles these bottles first have to be professionally cleaned before. When they use plastic bottles they first have to make the bottles, because they make big plastic bottles from small testing tubes. They heat the small testing tubes and then they blow it into big bottles ready to use.

When the bottles are cleaned or made, they go into a big centrifuge where they are filled with soda.

This packaging process has to be very precise because one mistake can infect the whole production line, so no mistakes are tolerated. All the time people are checking the production line and if there is a bad bottle in the production line the people who are responsible for that part of the line take the bad bottle out and throw it away.



In the production line we saw in Antwerp they fill 26.500 till 28.000 plastic bottles of 1.5 litres an hour.

Packaging of the bottles on pallets:

When the bottles are filled, they have to be packed on big pallets ready for transportation. All the plastic bottles are put into a plastic wrapping and put on a pallet. When the pallets are full they also wrap them in plastic foil, on which a computer puts a label. These pallets then go to a big store room where they are stored until they are loaded into a truck and transported to the shops.

Stocking:

The warehouse room consists of several storeys high and when they need for example a pallet of Coke Light Lemon in small bottles, they just have to insert it into a computer and an electronic lift goes up and gets the right pallet.

Illustration of the production line:

