

## ZORK SPK Frequently Asked Questions

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## ZORK SPK Frequently Asked Questions

### Who or what is ZORK?

ZORK is a privately owned South Australian company that designs and manufactures alternative closures for the beverage industry. Products that have been commercialized to date are STL, for still wine, SPK for sparkling wine.

### What is ZORK SPK?

Developed and manufactured in Australia, SPK is a competitively priced, re-sealable closure for sparkling wines offering high CO<sub>2</sub> retention, consumer convenience and brand differentiation.

### How does SPK work?

Incorporating our patent closure design, SPK consists of four integral components; a robust, tamper obvious CAP that holds the closure onto a standard crown-cork sparkling wine bottle, a COLLET which locks onto the bottle and is convenient to open and reseal, an inner metal FOIL which is a high quality CO<sub>2</sub> barrier to prevent flatness and a flexible SEAL which provides a high pressure liquid seal preventing leakage under extreme conditions.

### What are the advantages of using SPK?

SPK delivers three important key attributes to produce a strong competitive advantage.

- **Convenience** - Easy to open by hand and simple to reseal.
- **Confidence** - Our patented sealing technology maintains the quality of the wine, ensuring it is delivered just as the winemaker intended it to be.
- **Contemporary** - SPK is easy to recognise and stands out from the crowd, providing 'cut through' in a crowded retail environment.

### Advantages of SPK

- **Winemaker**
  - Preserves the sparkle in the wine
  - Will not taint or scalp
- **Marketer**
  - Creates market differentiation
  - Suitable for traditional or contemporary brands
- **Production**
  - Cost competitive with cork, wire and hood
  - Reliable, efficient and robust to apply
- **Consumer**
  - Safe and easy to open
  - Convenient reseal

### How long had it been in R&D?

We began development of SPK in 2007. Prototypes have been under test since March 2008. Latest test results of our technical trial with Provisor are available, (see summary report [here](#)). Please contact our [Technical Team](#) for further information.

### Do I need special glass to use SPK?

SPK has been designed to suit global industry standard crown/cork sparkling wine bottle finishes. Three closure sizes are available to suit the most common finishes. It is important to match the closure to the correct glass. For further information please see our [SPK Guidelines for Glass](#) fact sheet or visit our [website](#).

### How is SPK applied?

SPK can be applied at high speed using change parts for standard capping equipment. Manual application is possible by hand or with a modified crown seal capper. Comprehensive bottling information is available from the

technical downloads section of our [website](#). Customers within Australia and New Zealand should contact [Vinpac International](#).

## Where can I bottle with SPK?

For customers within Australia, [Vinpac International](#) has lines ready to bottle with SPK. Please contact [VI Packaging](#) on +61 8 8561 0744 or contact us direct on +61 8 8363 5635.

For customers outside of this region we are working with major contract bottlers and most will bottle with SPK in response to customer requests. We will work with you to facilitate bottling at your preferred bottling site. For further information please contact [us](#) or your local [distributor](#).

## What are the bottling advantages of SPK?

Applying SPK using modified standard corking or screw capping equipment is surprisingly simple, reliable and efficient than traditional methods. Further information can be found at our website.

## What are the change parts and how much do they cost?

A standard or champagne corker, crown sealer, poly-stopper or screw capping machine can be easily converted to run SPK for between AUD\$10-40,000 depending on your machine type and the number of heads. SPK can also be applied manually. SPK can take a standard foil hood over the top or not and fits into standard cartons. When setting up a new bottling line a potential saving of AUD\$100-500,000 can be made as there is no longer a need for a wirer, hooder or pleating machines. Also, there is a potential efficiency gain of up to 10% as these machines are no longer required to run during bottling.

## Can I apply SPK by hand?

Two piece SPK trial kits are available for short run technical trials, laboratory or media samples. For further details see our [SPK Manual Capping Instructions](#) fact sheet.

## Does SPK come in a range of colours ?

SPK is available in stock, standard and custom colours. Cap and Collet are separate components. Colours can be mixed or matched, depending on your branding requirements. Stock colours are CAP black, COLLET red, gold or silver, and have a two week lead time. Standard colours are CAP silver, gold or red, COLLET black and have a six week lead time.

Custom colours can be colour matched as close as possible to a PMS code or credit card size colour swatch using available food grade pigments. All new custom colours are subject to technical testing. An initial setup charge and minimum order quantity may apply. For further information please see our [SPK Colours, Printing, Embossing and Debossing](#) fact sheet or visit our [website](#).

## Can I print or decorate SPK?

The top of the Collet is available for printing in a single spot colour. An initial setup charge may apply. The print area is within a 19.0mm circle concentric with the centre of the top of the Collet. SPK provides visual differentiation while retaining the elegance required in the international wine market. With SPK's high quality satin finish and unique design the addition of a hood is optional. For further information please see our [SPK Colours, Printing, Embossing and Debossing](#) fact sheet or visit our [website](#).

## Can I emboss or de-boss SPK?

The top of the Collet is also available for embossing. For further information please see our [SPK Colours, Printing, Embossing and Debossing](#) fact sheet or visit our [website](#).

## Can I use a hood with SPK?

With SPK's high quality satin finish and robust, unique design the addition of a hood is optional.

## Is SPK recyclable?

SPK has been designed with the environment in mind. It is reusable, recyclable and manufactured with less green house gas (GHG) emissions than many other alternatives.

- REUSE – SPK can be reused to reseal similar bottles
- REDUCE - SPK has a carbon footprint significantly less than cork and muselet.
- RECYCLE - SPK is 100% recyclable.

For further information please see our [SPK Environment](#) fact sheet. Additional information can be found in our Greenhouse Gas (GHG) lifecycle assessment [Carbon Footprint Summary Report](#).

## How much does SPK cost?

SPK is cost competitive with cork and muselet. The big cost savings for producers is that they can opt (depending on local regulations) to market without a hood, saving production costs. For further information please contact [us](#) directly or your local [distributor](#).

## Where is SPK manufactured?

SPK is manufactured in Australia.

## How has SPK been tested?

SPK has been independently tested by [Provisor](#) and several large producers around the world. For further information please see our [SPK Technical Test Results - Summary](#) report.

## How is SPK assembled?

SPK is assembled using a fully automated assembly machine. The components are induction welded together with no glues or solvents used.

## Will wines sealed with SPK fit in a standard size carton?

SPK does not require any change to the size of a standard carton.

## Can I use SPK on other liquid packages such as Prosecco, Cava and sparkling water?

SPK has been designed specifically for sparkling wines, however the food grade materials are rated for contact with all foods, including up to 100% alcohol. SPK can be used for other beverages, although this may be dependent upon mandatory packaging laws in each particular European country. It is possible to use SPK on other beverages with the same level of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> as long as the as long as the correct glass is used. Please note that we have not tested the closure for liquids other than sparkling wine and recommend you conduct your own tests before using SPK.

## Can it be used on fully sparkling wines or just semi-sparkling and how many bar pressure is it guaranteed for in transit and on shelf?

SPK has been designed for use with full pressure sparkling wines. Our testing has demonstrated that there is no failure under conductive leak test conditions at 40°C. SPK is rated to 8 bar (120 psi).

## What is the shelf-life of product post-packaging?

This depends on the level of CO<sub>2</sub> at bottling and your definition of 'shelf-life'. Based on our trials the shelf life will be the same as any product under cork. Both cork and SPK are showing an average loss of <0.9gm of CO<sub>2</sub>/year. This can give a potential shelf life between 2-5 years.

## How does the reseal work?

The closure is made of four components: Cap, Collet, Foil, Seal. The Cap, Collet and Seal work together to provide the reseal function. A standard Champagne bottle has a "Crown Rim" (for applying a crown seal during secondary fermentation) and a "Muselet Bead" for wiring the Muselet onto the bottle to hold the cork in. The SPK Collet has a set of nine 'fingers' which grip the crown rim of the bottle. When the Cap is slid down over the Collet the fingers are squeezed onto the bottle under the crown rim. This action compresses the internal Seal onto the top of the bottle

and mechanically locks the fingers into place over the crown rim, preventing them from releasing the bottle until the Cap is slid up and off the fingers again.

Most after-market re-sealers just press a flat ring onto the very top portion of the bottle mouth. The SPK Seal retains the pressure by driving a small conical section into the internal lip of the bore of the bottle (similar to a tapered stopper being pressed into a test-tube). This leverages the mechanical force available to apply a very high sealing force against the bottle and will hold pressures over 8 bar at 40°C.

#### What exactly is making the seal? Plastic-lined aluminium?

The actual 'Sealing' action is performed by two components – Seal and Foil – in an identical manner to our STL closure for still wine. The Polyethylene Seal provides a mechanical liquid barrier preventing wine or gas from leaking out of the bottle. The Foil is a gas barrier preventing CO<sub>2</sub> transmission out and O<sub>2</sub> transmission in through the Polyethylene Seal.

#### Do wines develop under SPK?

Wine under SPK develops similarly to wine under quality cork. SPK allows a very low and consistent amount of oxygen into the wine. Wines sealed with SPK show a natural development.

#### I would like samples of SPK.

Please contact [us](#) or your local [distributor](#) to obtain SPK samples.

#### How can I get sample or purchase SPK?

To purchase or receive samples of SPK please contact [us](#) or your local [distributor](#).

## Contacts and Distribution SPK

### Global Head Office

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