

## Drinks Quality: Distribution Monitoring

### INTRODUCTION

Making sure a drinks product tastes the same at different distribution points can be a challenge for drinks manufacturers. Have you ever had a soft drink at a bar or restaurant yourself and thought it tasted different to the canned or bottled version of a product? The Figura Analyser™ can test for this in minutes.

Figura Analytics novel particle characterisation and counting technology, the Figura Analyser™, was utilised to looking at real-world samples supplied by a large soft drinks manufacturer (Figure 1). The company wanted to gain information on their products and see if they could particle profile samples at different distribution points.



Figure 1: Syrup-based soft drink samples from three different worldwide distribution locations.

### SAMPLE PROFILING

Each of the samples were run through the Figura Analyser (Figure 2). For Distribution site 1 the product was served in a can (considered to be the company's "gold standard" for taste"), whilst at Distribution site 2 and 3, the product was from a bag-in-box syrup, adding soda to the product at the site. Significant differences between the canned product were found, looking at both particle profile and concentration, whilst the two bag-in-box samples correlated well to each other. The similarities provided assurance that there was unlikely to be syrup/soda mixing issues at site. The overall increased particle count for 2 and 3 was considered to be due to the different formulation created for bag-in-box.

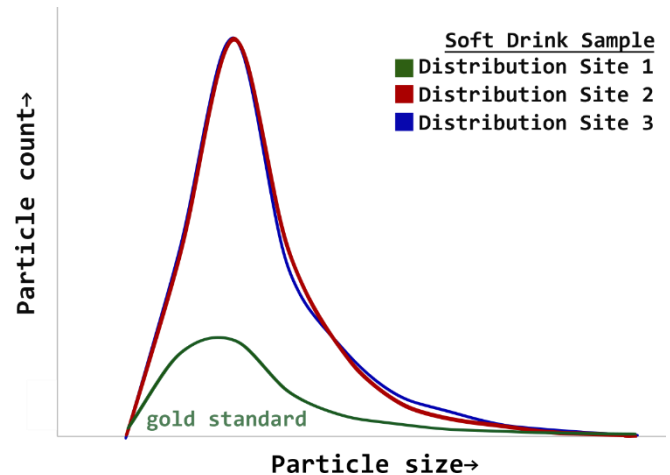


Figure 2: The particle size distribution of the soft drink at three different distribution sites.

### CONCLUSION

The company used the information collected to confirm consistency between bag-in-box syrup drinks, as well as using the system as a quantifiable way to test for taste differences. This is something that may be used to evaluate customer experience in the future. The company see further utility in profiling drinks dispensing tubes to ensure no contamination.

The utility of using the Figura Analyser for product comparison and distribution monitoring has been demonstrated, enabling our customers to ensure that their products provide a great customer experience and that they deliver the same quality product at different sites.

### FIGURA ANALYSIS AND TESTING (FAST)



Interested in using our technology for one of your applications?

We now offer FAST consultation services to work with you and tailor to your specific application.

More information: [figura-drinks.co.uk](http://figura-drinks.co.uk)