



Infrared Toasting Helps Ensure Whisky's Unique Taste

A purpose-built infrared heating system from Heraeus Noblelight is being used by Edrington, the premium spirits company, to assist in regenerating casks. This is achieved by replacing the existing ends of refill casks with new toasted ends toasted in the Heraeus Infrared toaster. The impact of the flavours created by toasting (and charring) will diminish each time the cask is filled with new make spirit. This is one of the reasons for regenerating casks. Traditionally, this has been done by using a naked flame to char both the body of the cask and the ends. However, this can produce an inconsistent finish and, in today's world, has Health and Safety implications.

As a result, Edrington turned to infrared specialists, Heraeus Noblelight, to investigate the possibility of a more efficient alternative to the traditional process. Successful extensive trials at Heraeus's Neston Applications Centre established that infrared would satisfy the end toasting requirement and consequently, an 80.4kW carbon medium wave oven was installed at Edrington's Muirhall Cooperage site.

The heating zone of the oven can accommodate two cask ends and is fitted with an optical pyrometer. The pyrometer measures the temperature of one of the cask ends and its output automatically regulates the power to the twelve 6.7W IR emitters, which, initially, heat both cask ends and then hold them at temperature. A typical cycle time is ten minutes, but this can be adjusted at the control panel. The cask ends are loaded into the oven, two at a time, by means of a sliding drawer. The heating cycle is started automatically, or manually from the control panel, once the drawer has been closed. If a drawer is opened during the cycle, the heating is automatically switched off and a flashing red light indicates that the toasting is incomplete. In operation, it has been found that full oven power is required for only two minutes to bring the cask ends to the required temperature, which is then held for the remaining eight minutes at just 50% power. Richard Russell, Cooperage Manager at Edrington, is very pleased with the new installation: "Quality is paramount for Edrington and the regeneration of our refill casks is an important element in this. The infrared system now gives us a consistent quality and cask end treatment has now become a controllable operation, which is easy to use."



Features

- Infrared system helps regenerating casks
- Toasting cask ends
- 2 minutes to bring the casks to required temperature

Technical Data

- 80.4kW carbon medium wave oven
- twelve 6.7W IR emitters
- Optical Pyrometer
- 10 minutes cycle time

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