CLOSURE DEFINITIONS

EUROMONITOR INTERNATIONAL
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CLOSURE DEFINITIONS

Corks
A bottle stopper produced from the elastic outer bark of the cork oak tree (traditional cork), or also from synthetic plastic. Some corks are a mixture of the two material types.

Glass Stoppers
Glass stoppers are made either completely from glass, or with a plastic surround, to ensure the bottle is air tight when closed. Glass stoppers are typically used with glass packaging and are most common in alcoholic beverages, perfume and instant coffee.

Liquid Carton Closures
Any plastic closure applied to a liquid carton. These can be plastic screw closures or flip-top closures as evident on brick cartons.

NOTE – the following four types of closure are very similar (beverage flip-top, beverage push-pull, plastic dispensing closure and push-pull closure), so please read carefully and classify these correctly in the database.

Beverage Flip-Top
Beverage flip-top is mainly evident in soft drinks such as bottled water. In these closures a lid is flipped open to reveal a drinking spout. This flip-top lid is used to reclose the bottle. Please note that closures where the consumer needs to pull up the spout to open should be classified as beverage push-pull. Please note that a flip-top style closure as used on some liquid concentrates, e.g. Mio (Mondelez) should be classified as a plastic dispensing closure.
**Beverage Push-Pull**

Beverage push-pull (formerly sports cap) is mainly evident in mineral water and soft drinks, typically in the still water and sports drinks categories, and for bottles typically less than one litre in size. The consumer pulls the spout to open the bottle and can then push the spout to reclose.

Please note that this only includes closures used in beverages. Push-pull closures found in home care are classified as push-pull closures.

**Plastic Dispensing Closures**

These caps all have plastic as their base substrate. There are a wide range of dispensing caps available – the main ones being “flip-top caps” (common on ketchup/sauce bottles, shampoo and body lotions, washing-up liquid; can also be found on containers in powder milk formula) and “disc cap” closures (personal care products).

Please note that opening systems such as used by confectionery brand Smint (other rigid container) are not considered as being a closure. The opening system used by brand Tic Tac is classified as Other plastic closure.

Please also note that flip top closures on flexible plastic are not included (some to be found in wipes). Also note that flip-top style beverage closures (ie closures through which the beverage is directly consumed) will not appear here – these should appear as either beverage flip-top and beverage push-pull. Closures on liquid concentrates are included here as product is poured from the bottle/not consumed directly from the bottle.

**Push-Pull Closures**

Push-pull closures are mainly used in liquid dishwashing. The consumer pulls the spout to open the bottle and can then push the spout to reclose.

Please note that similar closures used for beverages are excluded. These are classified as beverage push-pull.
NOTE – the following four types of closure are very similar (aerosol sprays, spray pumps, lotion pumps and trigger closures), so please read carefully and classify these correctly in the database.

Aerosol Sprays

Aerosol spray closures are the nozzles on aerosol cans that dispense the contents of the aerosol can using a propellant within the can. These closures are common for cleaning products, furniture polish, air fresheners, canned whipped cream and for cosmetics and toiletries products such as deodorants, body sprays, hair spray and shaving foam. Note that spray pump closures common on glass bottles for fragrances are not included here but are classified as spray pump closures. As such, please note that despite the “trigger” type lid, the closure type on Febreze Mist & Refresh spray/aerosol air freshener is also an aerosol spray, given the pack type is a metal aerosol can.

Aerosol sprays can only be assigned to metal aerosol cans.

Spray Pumps

A spray pump requires the user to press down on the closure to displace the product by forcing air into the bottle. The product is then forced through a small opening to form a spray. Common uses of pump closures are found in fragrances and sun care.

Closures on metal aerosol cans are not spray pumps but aerosol spray closures.

Lotion Pumps

A lotion pump requires the user to press down on the closure to dispense the content. A lotion pump will dispense the product in the form of a liquid, paste or gel. Most lotion pumps force air into the container while the liquid is being dispensed; however airless lotion pumps are also included in this closure type category. Airless pumps use a system of vacuum and piston which avoids product oxygenation. Common uses of pump closures are found within liquid soap, skin care, toothpaste and hair care.

Note that pumps which force the liquid into a spray are classified as spray pumps and excluded here.
Trigger Closures

Trigger closures are typically used for surface cleaners and window cleaning products. The trigger requires the user to squeeze the “trigger” to displace the liquid by forcing air into the bottle.

Metal Crowns

A metal crown, a shallow metal fluted closure, is typically found on glass beverage bottles, although also increasingly on aluminium bottles. A metal crown generally needs a bottle opener to remove the cap. Some metal crowns can be screwed off the bottle, but all have the appearance of the caps illustrated below. Note that the soft aluminium type with a ring pull are also included here.

Metal Screw Closures

The metal screw closure is for bottles or jars that have a thread on the bottle so therefore need to be screwed off. The cap can be of any size and may or may not have vacuum capabilities. Unlike metal lugs, metal screw closures turn several times before complete removal.

Metal Lug Closures

The metal lug closure is mainly used for glass bottles or jars and can be twisted off. The cap can be of any size and normally has vacuum capabilities, with a pop-up centre to indicate the product has been opened. Metal lug closures are commonly found in sauces, dressings, spreads, prepared baby food and soft drinks.

Peel-Off Foil

Peel-off foil lidding is primarily made of flexible aluminium and is mostly used for food products to protect from spoilage as it offers good barrier protection against light and air. Many food and drink types use foil to seal the product (eg yoghurt, dairy desserts, cream and other dairy products filled in thin wall plastic
containers), and some often also have secondary plastic lids (eg spreadable butter and margarine) that can be used to store the product for a short period of time.

Peel-off foil is also used on aluminium trays and, increasingly, small sizes of metal food cans in wet dog and cat food as well as in shelf stable foods in some countries (eg shelf stable seafood in France).

**Peel-Off Paper**

Peel-off paper is flexible paper lidding as used on thin wall plastic containers for ice cream but also dried food in some Asian countries.

**Peel-Off Plastic**

Peel-off plastic is plastic-based lidding with main applications for yoghurt pots, dairy desserts, cream and ice cream, dehydrated ready meals etc, where the other main competing lidding material on these products would be peel-off foil. Some peel-off plastic closures also include a layer of paper; as often found in yoghurt.

**Plastic Overcaps**

A plastic overcap is a non-screw plastic closure type which is specifically sold with a metal food can or tin, a composite container or a metal aerosol can, and enables the product to be resealed after use. Overcaps are only used on the pack types mentioned above because these typically come with an additional closure underneath (eg a peel-off lidding on a powder milk formula tin or a spray closure on an insecticide or deodorant spray) and thus upon using the product for the first time, the overcap is not in direct contact with the product but more of a "secondary" closure for re-closability.

**Plastic Screw Closures**

Standard screw closures are widely found on rigid plastic bottles and jars, collapsible tubes and glass bottles and jars, and can also be used on pouches. Screw closures used on liquid cartons are categorised separately as liquid carton closures.

Often plastic screw closures can be found fitted with a tamper-evident ring around the base of the cap, which needs to be “snapped” before the bottle can be opened.
Other Plastic Closures

Closures made from plastic that do not fit into any of the other closure categories. This includes rigid plastic closures found on thin wall plastic containers (e.g., butter, RTD coffee) as well as specialty closures that come directly into contact with the product (e.g., wipes, shoe polish).

Please note that containers with an integrated dispensing system such as found on dental floss and on mint products such as by brand Smint, are not classified as a closure but as part of the pack type.

Easy-Open Can Ends

Easy-open can ends have a metal ring-pull style lid enabling the user to open the food can without the need for a can opener.

Please note that the ring pull end on metal beverage cans is considered part of the can and therefore is not classified as a closure.

Standard Can Ends

Standard can ends require the use of a can opener, and have no pull tabs or other methods with which to open the can.
**Swingtop Closures**

Swingtop closures are usually made of rubber, and are attached to metal swing devices. Grolsch is famous for its swingtop closures.

**Child-Resistant Closures**

All plastic closures that have been specially designed to prevent easy opening by children. They usually need to be squeezed at certain points and then twisted or lifted off. Child-resistant closures are typically found on “dangerous if swallowed” products such as bleach or disinfectants/toilet-cleaning products as well as for pharmaceutical products.

**Other Closures**

Includes all other closures not made of plastic and not included in the above definitions. Metal tin lids are included here.

**Zip/Press Closures**

This is a resealable strip used on flexible plastic packaging or stand-up pouches. The closure is an extra strip of plastic material on both sides of the pack that must be either pressed together, or zipped together, to form a seal. These can be found on products such as cheese, confectionery and snacks. In many cases the consumer is required to cut the pack open first before the resealable zip/press-lock closure can be used (this is to ensure that the product has a perfect seal until the consumer first opens the product).

Please note that this only includes seals that require additional plastic strips attached to the package. This does not include flexible packaging that can be temporarily resealed with a sticky strip of glue or via a sticky label that can hold down the open end of the package.