



# Collapsible Plastic Bin Gets Mail Through for NZ Post

**"This collapsible plastic bin delivers on all objectives."**

Alan Court, NZ Post National Line Haul Manager.

## Case Study Overview:

A LINPAC Group member company, Viscount Plastics New Zealand utilised high levels of cooperation between parent and sister companies to win NZ Post's performance and price-based collapsible bin tender for the third year in succession. LINPAC is a global organisation specialising in packaging and materials handling.

## The Challenge:

With a mail distribution system based on transporting from north to south, returning empty steel mesh mail bins represented a major cost for NZ Post. Maximising load capacity on trucks transporting mail was also an issue, as were costs for maintenance and repairs. In 1999 NZ Post identified collapsible plastic bins as key to achieving more cost effective purchase and 'whole-of-life' operating, improved space utilisation on transport vehicles and reduced risk of personal injury to handlers.

## The Solution:

Viscount Plastics New Zealand was able to source the best match to NZ Post's tender specifications from among Ropak brand products manufactured by LINPAC Materials Handling in the United Kingdom.

The 1m3 Ropak Bin was considered the most suitable answer to maximising available

cubic space on both outward and return legs of the distribution loop. Full of mail, the 980 mm deep bins stack three high on 'B' trains and on return legs collapse to just 300 mm to stack seven high. Either direction, worthwhile cost efficiencies and savings are achieved.

The HDPE plastic construction, customised in NZ Post red, was identified as extremely robust. This was quickly proven on the job where a forklift tine impacting the bin wall tends to bend the plastic rather than fracture it. If and when real damage is done, plastic welding



A LINPAC Group company





# case study



generally makes repairs quick and inexpensive. This contrasts with traditional steel mesh mail bins which when hit in this way invariably must be taken out of service for straightening, re-plating and replated.

A damaged steel mesh bin also exposes handlers to razor sharp broken wire.

**Positive Impact:**

NZ Post's use of collapsible plastic bins reflects a worldwide trend away from solid metal bins and also cardboard and wood, both of which present major waste disposal problems. Another

environmental plus for plastic is its renewable resource capabilities --- at the end of its service life, a plastic collapsible bin can be ground down for remanufacture into further plastic products.

To explore the opportunities for collapsible bins to streamline the flow of materials into, through and out of your plant, and to maximise your time, space and labour efficiencies contact Viscount Plastics New Zealand for a no cost, no obligation assessment of your needs. It could mean a change for the better.

**[www.viscountplastics.co.nz](http://www.viscountplastics.co.nz)**

8 Vestey Drive, Mt Wellington  
PO Box 22462 Otahuhu  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Tel: +64 9 276 8679  
Fax: +64 9 276 4392

Wellington Level 2, 46-50  
Bloomfield Terrace.  
PO Box 30238, Lower Hutt,  
Wellington, New Zealand.  
Tel: +64 4 570 3328.  
Fax: +64 4 570 3329

Christchurch Cnr Brougham  
& Gasson Streets.  
PO Box 7111,  
Christchurch, New Zealand.  
Tel: +64 3 365 4382.  
Fax: +64 3 366 6026