

# Sté des Eaux de Charges “A transparent partnership”



Featuring CO<sub>2</sub> laser coders  
Traceability on PET bottles ■ ■ ■



“With Imaje’s 7031S laser coder, we have gained in code legibility and found a flexible means to code different types of bottles.”

**Thierry de Brier,**  
Eaux de Charges site manager

**Name:** Société des Eaux de Charges

**Location:** Chorges, Hautes-Alpes, France

**Founded:** 1993

**Employees:** 53

**Business:** spring water bottle manufacturer and producer

**Production:** more than 140 million bottles per year

## Choosing the right technology ■ ■ ■

The Eaux de Charges company, owned by the Eaux Minérales de Saint Amand Group, is the 4th largest French water bottle manufacturer. From a market perspective, more than half of the spring water bottles sold throughout stores under distributor brands were produced in one of Saint Amand’s plants. The production plant of Chorges, located in the Alps, runs three 8-hour shifts and produces more than 140 million bottles per year. “For us, what is crucial in terms of traceability is the ‘best before’ date. We need to be able to track our production by the minute. On the other hand, our customers need to be able to quickly see and read the date,” explains the site manager Thierry de Brier.

The Eaux de Charges has been using laser coders to mark their bottles for several years now. They chose this technology over another on a reliability basis as well as on its ability to code bottles at high speeds. “Marking the ‘best before’ date is an essential part of the overall

production process. If a piece of equipment breaks down, the entire line is shut down,” explains Thierry de Brier.

Today, all three production lines are equipped with Imaje laser coders. “For our high-speed line (24,000 bottles per hour), we have replaced the Lighjet Vector laser - that we moved to our third line - with a 7031. The advantage of the 7031 is its compact size and the improved quality, legibility and contrast of the code,” explains Thierry de Brier. These new generation laser coders don’t require any plant air or water. For a company like Eaux de Charges – that is ISO 14001 and IFS certified – factors like these are greatly appreciated.



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the team to trust ■ ■ ■

## Contrast quality code ■ ■ ■

On its multi-format line, Eaux de Charges produces several different water bottle shapes and sizes at a speed of 16,000 bottles per hour. For multi-format lines like this, Eaux de Charges chose to install Imaje's latest laser coder: the 7031S, specially designed for marking on PET in wet environments. "The print is highly contrasted," states Thierry de Brier, "and the specific wave length properties have helped us considerably reduce the

**Eaux de Charges has chosen Imaje's newest laser coders to identify their spring water bottles.**

risks linked to bottle piercing. Also, and most importantly, this new laser has a greater focal distance tolerance and can therefore code different shape and size bottles at high-speeds on the same line."

In terms of ergonomics, the user interface has been simplified to enhance operator ease-of-use. "We were delighted to take part in Imaje's research on the user interface," Thierry de Brier admits, "we feel Imaje has listened."

"When we first purchased a laser in 2002, we also decided to subscribe to Imaje's Global Contract. By doing so, we can upgrade our equipment very easily," comments the site manager. "Once again, Imaje found that the new 7031S would fit our needs more effectively and therefore offered us that option. Needless to say we are very satisfied with this partnership which has allowed us to have quality codes and meet our production requirements," concludes Thierry de Brier.



**On the multi-format line, Eaux de Charges uses 7031S laser coder to code two lines of text on the bottle neck.**

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9, rue Gaspard Monge  
B.P. 110  
26501 Bourg-lès-Valence Cedex - France  
Tel.: +33 (0) 4 75 75 55 00  
Fax: +33 (0) 4 75 82 98 10

150 Congress Street  
Keene, NH 03431  
United States of America  
Tel.: +1 800-258-5356  
Fax: +1 603-357-1835

  
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