PackagingNews

By Tony Corbin 23 March 2026

Encirc brushes off alcoholic drinks bottle shortage warning as strike looms

Encirc has denied a risk of a bottle crisis looming after over 100 workers announced strikes due to threatened job cuts.



Encirc is a major manufacturer and filler of glass bottles for a wide variety of high-profile alcoholic and no/low-alcohol brands, which include Jameson, Baileys, Budweiser and Coors as well as supermarket branded wine.

Unite members, based at Encirc's Elton, Cheshire site, are taking actions over proposed redundancies with the firm looking to reduce its headcount by 28 people. Workers said losing this number of staff will negatively impact workers' stress levels, increase workloads and create safety issues.

The union said redundancy proposals come despite Encirc being profitable. Its parent company Vidrala recently reported full-year results for 2025, seeing a strong market performance with a net profit exceeding £192m.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "A profitable company such as Encirc should be investing in its hardworking staff, not making them redundant."

READ THE LATEST DIGITAL EDITION



FEATURED VIDEO

WIPEA x SW V4
Packaging News

There are a number of job roles that will be impacted by redundancies, including maintenance staff and workers who produce the glass containers and bottles for the filling hall where beverages are bottled and packaged.

An Encirc statement said: “There will certainly not be any bottle shortages. We will mitigate against any consequence this action will have, and do not anticipate any impact to our supply chain.”

The statement added that the company was ‘surprised’ by the strie action because the restructuring process has been happening throughout our UK businesses for the past nine months and is now almost at an end.

Encirc said the majority of those people impacted have already left the business with most opting for voluntary redundancy packages.

Strikes will take place 28-30 March and 3-7 April, and Unite warned that industrial action will have a significant impact on the supply of bottles or containers from the Elton site and shortages of popular brands in the next few months.

Unite regional officer Andrew Johnson said: “Encirc has still time to halt this disruptive strike action, but that relies on management coming back to negotiations with alternatives.”

Encirc added: “In the UK we are up against some of the highest energy prices in the world, reduced demand due to a cost-of-living crisis, and a new packaging tax (Extended Producer Responsibility) that is detrimental to glass. We had no choice but to change and adapt to these challenges.”

Post Share

Tagged with: ENCIRC

RELATED ARTICLES



Vidrala first quarter profits rise 13% despite sales dip



Encirc welcomes First Minister and deputy First Minister to Derrylin facility



Encirc warns EPR fees will ‘hit glass products the hardest’



Two thirds of Brits ‘concerned about chemicals in food’

Most popular



‘Delays possible to medicine packaging’ as Amcor workers to strike



EU urged to push biodegradable materials in circular economy plans

Latest headlines



Campaigners respond to attempt by big brands to reopen PPWR provisions



Amcor pledges packaging support for expanded Ocado refill trial

Register and sign up for news by email

LATEST JOBS

SUPPLIER OF THE WEEK

CJK PREMIUM PACKAGIN SOLUTIO

See more top suppliers at: suppliernetwork

SUPPLIER NETWORK



POLIPAKS’ FLAT BOTTOM POUCHES ARE GIVING BRANDS THE EDGE

With over 25 years’ experience in flexible packaging

Get **Packaging News** every day

Email Address

Subscribe

« Previous: BCMPA to highlight growth of nutraceuticals and entrepreneurial thinking at upcoming shows

Next: Brands welcome UK Packaging PRO appointment to lead packaging recycling scheme »

LEAVE A REPLY

You must be logged in to post a comment.



Plastic Reduction & Easier Recyclability

The UK Government's Resources and Waste Strategy sets out how the country will preserve material ...

Copyright © 2024 - **Packaging News** | Jobs | Production | Design | Innovation. Terms and Conditions Privacy policy