

## MICHIGAN “DID YOU KNOW” – FRANKENMUTH 3.2-7% CONE By Randy Karasek

Most collectors have seen the Frankenmuth “Air Free” cone top, USBC 163-31, and many may actually have one in their collection. While not a common can, these are at least obtainable.



**USBC 163-31**

The left side panel has the text “The scientific lining of this can protects the contents insuring Purity and Flavor”. IRTP

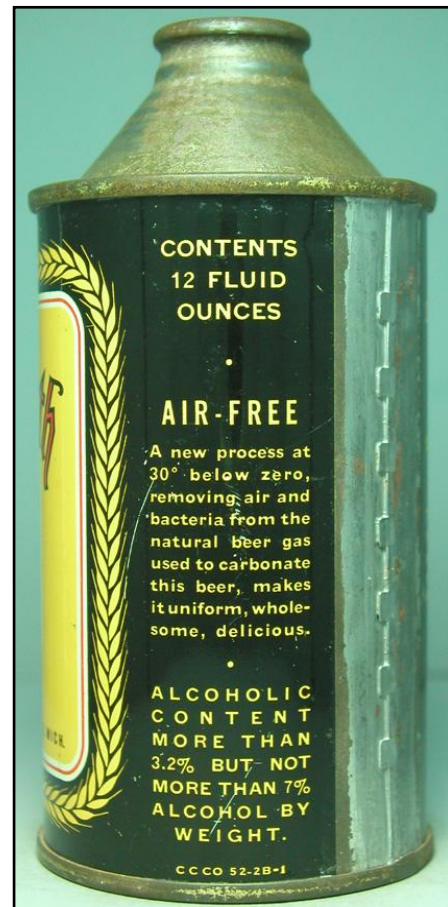
The right side panel has the text “A new process at 30° below zero, removing air and bacteria from the natural beer gas used to carbonate this beer, makes it uniform, wholesome, delicious.”

However, have you ever seen USBC 164-01, with the 3.2-7% alcohol statement (side panel pictured at right)? This has the same face as 163-31 and same Air Free story, but also includes “ALCOHOLIC CONTENT MORE THAN 3.2% BUT NOT MORE THAN 7% ALCOHOL BY WEIGHT”. Also note the early bulb-top spout and the older style “CC CO 52-2B-1” canning code.

This is a very tough example, with few known. I did have the great fortune to own two at one time, with the second now on the shelf of a good collecting friend.

### **But what about USBC 163-32?**

There is another Frankenmuth Air Free cone listed in the USBC with a 3.2% alcohol statement. Not sure if this means “exactly 3.2%” or “not more than 3.2%”. Either way, no Michigan specialist has ever heard of such a variation, and no example has thus far been located during MBC photography. My guess is this is a mistake in the USBC and really referring to the same beer can as pictured for USBC 164-01.



**USBC 164-01 side panel**