

Faller ensures Japan-Quality

The family business August Faller KG founded in 1882 is well-known within its branch as being the best supplier for secondary packaging material for the pharmaceutical industry. Its range of services includes specialist packaging solutions and pharmaceutical services such as individually developed cardboard boxes, patient information leaflets (PILs), stickers and multi-purpose products of the highest quality. Faller has already worked successfully with Vision Experts inspection systems for years. All print machines for PILs and a print machine for cardboard boxes are equipped with Vision Experts inline inspection systems, which check each print thoroughly.

Klaus Münster, project leader and assistant manager of the August Faller pharmaceutical service centre, explains its purpose: "We wanted to be able to fulfill specific customer demands. Now we are certain of delivering products that lay within the agreed, narrow tolerances."

The system reliably and repeatably separates virtually all types of optical mistakes. "The system finds imperfections, paint splashes, die cut mistakes, printing faults and folding damage" he explains.

Japanese customers value the image of a product far more highly than in Europe. Already purely cosmetic imperfections such as material flaws or scratches lead to rejection. The appearance of products for the Japanese market must be faultless and uniform. The rating "good" just isn't good enough for Japanese customers. These high requirements have led to the creation of the term "Japan quality" within the pharmaceutical supplies industry.



Unique feature

“Product quality can’t be guaranteed by checking alone, quality must be produced” states Mr. Münster clearly. For the guarantee of faultless Japan Quality, the new sorting system constitutes an important part of the whole production process. “Additionally to inline inspection by Vision Experts systems, and therefore the inspection in the printing press, the new sorting system represents a unique feature”, mentions Mr. Münster happily and confirms that, “For us, there is no alternative that meets the requirement of our customers”.

Customer feedback

Mr. Münster is pleased that in such a short time clearly fewer unnoticed defects, fewer error rejections, a clearly improved reproduction and a shorter running time have already been achieved. “We are already being praised by customers for the constantly high quality” he says.

Manual sorting is no alternative

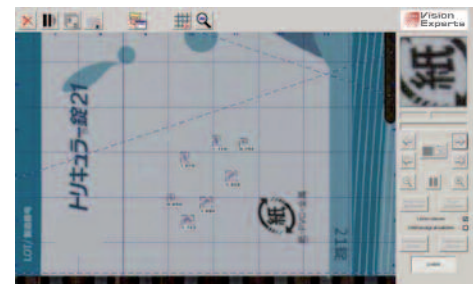
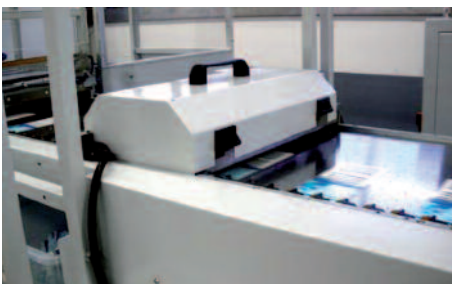
Previously used manual sorting is expensive and protracted. Klaus Münster is speaking plainly when he says “for large print runs it’s not economically possible and delivers absolutely no quality guarantee”. For manual sorting, highly focused well trained staff working in a disturbance-free environment are required so that they can still spot the smallest mistake after 6 hours work. That is troublesome, time consuming and the result depends on the day-to-day mental and physical condition of the workers. Two thirds of the working time required for manual sorting have been saved.

Inline and offline inspection

“The inline inspection prevents production errors, because at the moment their existence is recognized, they are immediately intercepted. This is good, as the loss of a whole sheet because of one defect is too expensive while only a complete sheet can be removed which also includes perfect products. That isn’t calculable in terms of cost when one combines the material costs with the extremely high quality requirements for Japan Quality. Now we remove the exact cut which contains the fault. The combination of in- and offline testing is optimal“.

Outlook

Nikolaus Reichenbach, director and manager of August Faller KG’s PharmaServiceCenter in Waldkirch predicts that “Automatic 100% inspection systems in the production process represent the future of the printing industry – starting with quality and security related products such as pharmaceutical packaging and printed value papers. Our decision to do business with Vision Experts was and still is the right one”.



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