Factfile:
Trac-IT Line Control Module

Leading food retailers and supermarkets are insisting on increasingly high levels of customer-driven labelling related information from their suppliers, delivered consistently and always with total accuracy. Most retailers have established comprehensive guidelines for their suppliers relating to a wide range of packaging and labelling issues. However interpreting and implementing these requirements can be a daunting and expensive task. Failure to comply leaves companies vulnerable. Wrongly labelled or packaged products create a financial exposure for the manufacturer that is unsustainable and must be eradicated. Companies need a system to manage this risk automatically so that they police 100% of their production 100% of the time.

Problems associated with inadequate line control include:

- Production disruption and delays
- Costly RTMs or EPWs
- Brand damage
- Loss of customer confidence

The Marco Line Control Module (LCM) provides manufacturers with a safe and secure 'setup' capability for all elements of the packing line. This enables the rapid automated setup of Date Coders, Inline Barcode Scanners (1D and 2D), Printers, Check Weighers and Metal Detectors, all from one selection at a central PC terminal.

The system has been specifically developed to minimise the risk of products being wrongly labelled/packaged or date coded. The system complies with the most recent codes of practice as issued by the major retailers. It automatically checks the whole set-up of the line from one central terminal to ensure there are no errors at the beginning and end of a batch and, most importantly, on a continuous basis throughout the batch run. A key advantage is that it can be implemented as a standalone module within your existing factory structure and will provide a rapid return on investment.

The Marco LCM guarantees:

- Correct label/packaging
- Correct flash label
- Correct printed information
- Increased levels of traceability with automated information on packaging
- Elimination of RTMs/EPWs
- Rapid line setup and product changeover times
- Elimination of packaging rework and "Near Misses"
- Sustained reduction in QC burden
- Real time line reporting and Operator accountability
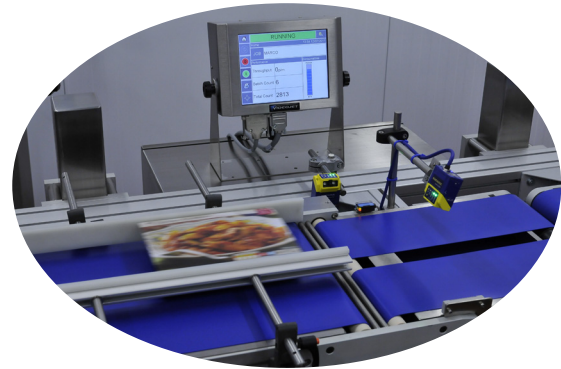- Increased levels of downtime information

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Case Study:

Company: Rhokett Ltd

Location: Kent, UK

Project Objectives: To ensure only correctly labelled product leaves the plant

A prime example of the effectiveness of Marco's Line Control Module is at Rhokett's newly opened 8,000sq ft premium dessert manufacturing plant in Kent. Rhokett has already gained an enviable reputation in this niche food sector and has 'raised the bar' when it comes to developing high quality, bespoke hand-crafted dessert products.

Originally established with the support of Michelin Star chef Gary Rhodes in 2002, the company has expanded rapidly under the expert guidance of its two directors, Chef Patissier Martin Dockett and Peter Le Voir. Its diverse range of customers includes exclusive restaurants, hotels, airlines and major retail outlets.

Given Rhokett's wide range of products and customers, rapid line changes are essential to meet ever changing order requirements. In such a dynamic manufacturing environment, ensuring 100% correct labelling for the wide range of products is a challenging, yet essential task. Any errors are both expensive and time consuming. If wrongly labelled product were to leave the plant, this could result in RTM or EPW incidents, which can be severely punished by the retailers.

The Marco Line Control Module (LCM) has been specifically developed to remove these risks by centralising the set up and control of critical line control and labelling parameters.

The LCM system at Rhokett comprises of a central DataMaster Terminal running Marco's Trac-IT LCM software, 2D label printer and high speed line scanner. This real-time reporting paperless system allows rapid line setup, reduced product changeover times and increased levels of traceability, all from a central location. It helps prevent wrongly labelled product leaving the plant and 'near misses' are more easily eliminated. Additional benefits include sustained reductions in the QC burden and packaging rework.

MD Martin Dockett is delighted with the Marco installation and as he concludes: "We are planning to double turnover over the next three to five years and it is essential we maintain the high level of confidence our customers have with us. We recognise that this is a highly competitive market and innovative solutions such as the Marco LCM system will help play an essential part in this, giving us peace of mind that only correctly labelled products can leave our plant."

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