



Omron in-line label verification solution helps global leader in food manufacturing to ensure label accuracy and compliance.

Label accuracy is paramount in the food manufacturing industry. Without an uncompromising commitment to accuracy, manufacturers could unwittingly place consumers in danger with mislabeled packages or inaccurately reported contents, and the negative publicity plus the cost of recalls arising from such errors could translate into a loss of revenue. For this reason, there must be a solid system in place to thoroughly check for errors, blemishes and other issues that could compromise the reliability of product information on a label.

With the support of Proax Technologies, Omron collaborated with a large customer in the food manufacturing industry to verify label accuracy in a printing application. This printing station produces rolls that are put on a printer to be

applied later in the process. The customer was seeking to replace their standard printer with one that would provide comprehensive label verification without slowing down the label creation process. As a global manufacturer, managing and verifying multiple languages across labels was a major challenge in this project.

As the only manufacturer of a Zebra printer-integrated, in-line label verification and print quality inspection system, Omron stood out as the ideal choice for an automation partner. Coupled with the extensive knowledge of the technical team from Proax Technologies, the customer saw that Omron was unique in being able to supply a solution that would simultaneously maximize accuracy and throughput.

Business need

A North American food manufacturer with a global market presence needed to ensure consistent label quality and accuracy in multiple languages without slowing down the production process.

Unique solution

In conjunction with Proax Technologies, Omron supplied its printer-integrated, in-line label verification system, the V275, allowing for the printing and inspection of labels simultaneously.

Customer benefits

The new system has met its goal of preventing problems at the source, allowing control personnel to detect discrepancies in languages and prompting them to make corrections. Recalls and complaints around non-compliant labels has dropped drastically, resulting in a rapid return on investment.

The solution

Rapid, in-line label verification



The need

The customer's desire to upgrade their label verification process was triggered by a number of printing issues that were resulting in a failure to meet requisite standards. According to these standards, different languages should be read by quality assurance personnel to verify that the description printed on the labels is correct. However, these employees cannot verify human-readable text when it is written in a language they cannot read, and with exports across multiple countries, no one person knows all the languages involved.

This application involved two separate printer models: the automatic winder and the print-and-apply. Both are used in the different factories of the customer. It was not necessary for the new system to save any printing time, but verifying the compliance of each label before going to market was essential.



The technology

The customer found a complete solution in the Omron V275. Proax Technologies aided the food manufacturer with integration support as well as training sessions for their quality control and IT teams.

The system works as follows. For print-and-apply, the process stops when the V275 detects a problem with the label, and the operator must take an action to resume printing. For the automatic rewinder, the printer is in an inspection area where the label rolls are printed in advance. When an error is detected, quality control personnel are prompted to make an immediate repair. The program was built with a translator onsite to validate the inspection.



The outcome

The customer has implemented the V275 solution in thirteen factories. Returns and complaints about non-compliant labels have dropped drastically, and the return on investment came very quickly thanks to the system's high level of precision compared to a traditional vision system. The blemish detection and optical character recognition (OCR) functions help recognize anomalies, especially in non-Latin languages.

The new system met its goal of preventing problems at the source. Each language used on a label is now consistent with the languages on corresponding labels. With the V275, control personnel can inspect each of the labels easily and be able to detect problems as soon as they arise. The risk of fines and recalls due to inaccurate labels has been eliminated, preserving the company's brand reputation and providing their customers with added peace of mind.

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