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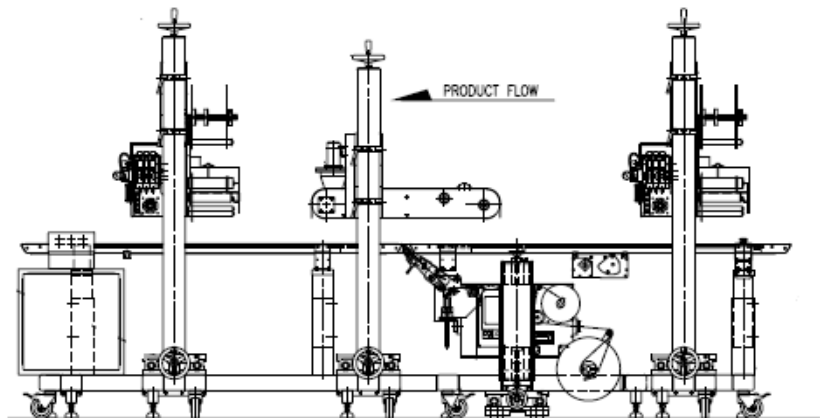
Five Examples of How Automatic Labeling Can Improve Your Business

What if you could improve product labeling and lower cost at the same time? Automatic labeling can provide these and other benefits. The five stories below illustrate examples of companies using automatic labeling to streamline their manufacturing process.

Example 1:

Coborn's Bakery decided to replace hand labeling with machine applied labels. They wanted to improve the look of the packages and reduce the manual labor required.

AbeTech provided an automated solution that applies



labels to the tops and bottoms of delicate bakery items such as bread, cakes, and cookies without damage. Preprinted and printed on-demand labels are put on the top and bottom of containers and trays in one pass. Store and pricing information, nutrition facts, and other labels are applied automatically with a guaranteed placement of $\pm 1/8"$. Now labels are not skewed in different directions as is common with hand labeling. Coborn's can program the machine to label a specific number of packages. Now their workers can concentrate on other tasks.

Example 2:

The Kroger Springdale Beverage plant was concerned about the safety of their forklift drivers. The current system required these operators to position their forklifts sideways to each pallet to apply a bar code label, then back up and reposition the forklift to pick up the pallet. Unfortunately, forklifts often ran into the conveyor guard rails,



damaging both forklift and conveyor. Also, line back-ups sometimes resulted and pallets wound up on the floor until drivers could find the time to move them into the warehouse. Moreover, these times of disarray led to mislabeled products and inevitable shipment errors. AbeTech provided an automatic labeling system with a feature that allows the forklift drivers to request print jobs and cancel leftover print jobs right from their forklift terminal. The new automatic labeling system has freed up the forklift drivers to focus on loading and moving pallets, increasing their speed and efficiency while also minimizing awkward lift movements and damage to equipment. What's more, labeling and shipment errors have all but disappeared.

Example 3:

In 2005 U.S. Playing Card was stenciling information on cartons. The packer would hand cut a stencil and use a roller to ink the identification letters on the side of the carton. It was a slow, messy process. To better identify the cartons and prepare for the advent of a warehouse management system, U.S. Playing Card installed CTM printer applicators on each of their 8 packaging lines. Because of the quality of the equipment and the AbeTech training provided to the maintenance staff, the printer applicators have run with virtually no repairs. Five years later this equipment continues to perform well with no end in sight.



Example 4:

A large testing company produces kits for clinical diagnostics. Each manufactured kit, also known as a diagnostic integral, contains compartments filled with human serum capped with foil. Previously this company batch printed bar code labels and hand applied them. Someone scanned one label out of each batch with a handheld scanner to ensure quality of the bar code.

In 2008 they installed a new diagnostic machine that utilizes advanced capabilities requiring automated handling and verification. To fully realize its capabilities, AbeTech provided an automated system that incorporates print and apply labeling, RFID encoding, and vision inspection. First, a diagnostic integral travels down an indexing conveyor. A 3" x 5" label, containing 17 bar codes and 52 OCR fields, is automatically printed and applied by a CTM labeler with Zebra print engine. Then the integral advances to an RFID encoder that writes a kilobyte of data in less than 3 seconds to an embedded RFID tag. At the next step a vision system inspects the OCR characters to evaluate quality by pixel count. Then it is either accepted and ejected to an automatic carton set up machine, or sent to a rejection bin where it is inspected to confirm the rejection. Now the testing company can automate the identification of each product, ensuring consistent label placement, while also providing label and RFID verification on 100% of their manufactured product.

Example 5:

While most cartons are preprinted – for cereal, beer, ammunition, and other uses – Walter G. Andersen gained a client who wanted a generic carton with a pressure sensitive label. Andersen had a print and apply labeler, but it could not provide the 85 per minute rate that they required. So they turned to AbeTech. We supplied a loose loop system that allows them to automatically label these generic cartons without slowing down their production line. By separating the tamp pad from the print engine, both can operate at top speed without waiting for the other. This system also uses a pick and place mechanism to position the cartons and a vacuum conveyor to make sure that the cartons remain positioned properly. Now Andersen can use this capability to gain other generic carton customers.

Conclusion

Whether you're in need of a desktop print and apply, apply only, semi- or fully automated, a standalone or integrated labeling system or an RFID print, encode and apply system, AbeTech has the experience and knowledge to successfully implement automation into your labeling



processes. From bottles to boxes, we have a solution for all of your automated labeling requirements.

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