

Med Device Manufacturer Finds New Efficiencies with Label Applicator Solution

CORPAK MedSystems, Inc. is a global manufacturer and marketer of medical devices for the enteral-feeding and bedside-location markets. The company, headquartered in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, has more than 30 years of experience and a strong record of innovation, partnering with customers and stakeholders to create better clinical and economic solutions.

The company's facility features a clean room manufacturing area for its enteral-feeding line. In order to maintain the integrity of the clean room and exacting standards of its medical products, CORPAK automates many of its production processes. The manufacturing space is outfitted with a Dorner conveyor system and Dobby sealer that seals the feeding tube bags after they are assembled and packed.

After the bags are sealed, they are placed on a conveyor belt, where every bag receives a label from an applicator. Due to the sheer volume of products being produced, a print and apply labeler is necessary to reduce human intervention and eliminate the chance for error, ensure exact product placement and maximize productivity.

The company's move to its Buffalo Grove location presented the opportunity to overhaul its manufacturing operation and upgrade to a new, state-of-the-art facility. The company



Customer:

CORPAK MedSystems, Inc.

Objective:

- Upgrade an aging label applicator to increase efficiency
- Find a solution that is compliant with clean room standards

Solution(s):

- CTM 3600a-PA Printer Label Applicator
- Zebra 170 PAX4 Print Engine

headquarters features ISO Class 8 clean room manufacturing capacity, research and development facilities and warehouse and distribution space. As part of the relocation, CORPAK sought to expand and enhance its existing systems and technology and expand its manufacturing capacity to support its growing enteral product lines. While evaluating its existing equipment prior to moving, CORPAK's management found that one of its two label applicators was aging and would need to be replaced.

The Solution

When it came time to replace the failing applicator, the company wasn't rushing to upgrade it to the brand's newest version. CORPAK's second applicator was a CTM, and the production team felt it was a better product.

"Our production team preferred the CTM applicator," said Mike Sibigroth, Manufacturing Manager at CORPAK. "When it came time to send one applicator to the new manufacturing site, we didn't want to give up the CTM. Instead, we bought a CTM for the new site."

CORPAK turned to Imprint Enterprises, an award-winning industry leader in barcode technology, for assistance in upgrading and installing their new applicators. Imprint Enterprises supplied and installed two new CTM 3600a-PA Printer Label applicators at the production plant.

The CTM 3600a-PA printer is a rugged, high-speed thermal transfer labeler that prints up to 12 inches per second, depending on the DPI selected. It is used to print and apply pressure sensitive labels to different types of products and can print user-created fonts and graphics such as



custom logos and assorted bar codes. The CTM 3600a-PA can also accommodate labels up to 7.1" wide and features a user-friendly interface, tamp-blow operation and operator keyboard and display.

The new applicators are powered by Zebra 170 PAX4 print engines and feature red, amber and green triple stack alert lights, T-based stands for stability and clear product-detect sensors to keep production running smoothly. The new, industrial modules feature all-metal construction, status alerts and centralized control, 300 DPI resolution for easy readability, real-time clock, and an applicator interface.

Two Imprint technicians installed the new applicators in about three hours. A CORPAK technician assisted with the installation and helped fine tune the machines once the project was completed. Since this was the second CTM applicator installed on-site for CORPAK, the client was already familiar with the technology. The production line was operational immediately without additional training needed.



Benefits

CORPAK is benefitting from Imprint Enterprises' industry expertise that helped the company choose the right solution for its application. The new CTM applicators operate with a tamp-blow system, which means the applicator never touches the product. As the tamp pad is extended, instead of pressing the label onto the bag, it blows the label onto the product, so the pad never comes into contact with the feeding bag or product. This helps ensure the integrity of the bags and the clean room's operational standards.

CORPAK's new labeling technology also helps the manufacturing facility operate at maximum efficiency. The new applicators are built with high-quality, all-metal housing that is made in the USA. The touch screen interface is intuitive to learn and the applicator's external valves and controls make it easy for technicians to diagnose and repair problems without disrupting the entire system for extended periods of time. In addition, the new applicators are scalable and can be moved around to different production areas, which is perfect for accommodating CORPAK's expanding line of products.