

Herta Relies on METTLER TOLEDO for Modern Vision Inspection Solutions



Herta is well-known for its pre-packed high-quality meat and sausage products – producing and packing up to 120 tons of sausage products at its Herten site every week. Product quality is a top priority at Herta, as their promise guarantees every customer a safe product of the highest quality.

Our sausage and meat products are subjected to a very stringent quality management process," explains Georg Schröder, Head of Automation Technology. "To ensure the consumer is convinced of our consistently high quality, we need our product packaging to be flawless."

Thanks to innovative packaging, the company is able to ensure that its products reach the consumer extra fresh and smelling delicious. Herta uses METTLER TOLEDO CI-Vision's V2640 Flat Pack to automate inspection of its end packaging as part of their quality management process. The V2640 is designed to check a wide range of packaging quality elements – and can do so at high conveyor belt speeds. In the event of any problems, it transmits a signal to have the product removed. As the V2640 is downstream of the packaging and labelling machine, it can check the results of both processes and verify their quality.

The vision inspection solution detects whether or not the right film has been applied to the top side

of the packaging and whether or not the film is properly aligned and fitted. The V2640 colour option also comes into play when making these distinctions.

On the packaging line for Herta's Finesse brand, the V2640 also scans the underside of the packaging, checking whether or not the right label has been used and whether the use-by date and batch number have been printed correctly.

The V2640 also looks for any damage to the packaging, such as tears or holes in the film. It also checks the sealed edge around the Finesse packets for debris, such as bits of chicken breast that have accidentally become trapped. These checks enable Herta to identify products at risk of contamination and remove them before they can reach the retailer. The V2640 uses two blast nozzles to automatically remove any damaged packets,



packets with incorrect labelling or bad products which have failed the sealed edge inspection.

"As well as checking the integrity of the packaging, we also check the layout of the printed barcode and the use-by date," Mr Schröder continued. The V2640 can detect whether or not a barcode is present and whether it has been positioned correctly, and can also check the accuracy of its coding.

The use-by date needs to be printed in the correct position and clearly legible for the consumer. Finesse packets with incorrectly printed barcodes and use-by dates are rejected by the system. Using the METTLER TOLEDO vision inspection system enables Herta to guarantee that no damaged – and therefore potentially contaminated – products are delivered to the retailer. This in turn enables Herta to considerably reduce the risk of recalls as a result of problems with the product packaging.

METTLER TOLEDO's CIVCore® software makes it easy to use the V2640, and enables Herta's employees to set up new products quickly: four clicks on the control panel is all it takes to configure a new setting. Given that there are as many as ten product changeovers in one shift, this saves a significant amount of time and money for Herta.



Printed information is checked using CIVCore software

The V2640 was designed and built to ensure compliance with HACCP hygiene standards, and is easy and safe to clean after three production shifts. Its round, flat, surfaces mean it can be cleaned quickly and effectively using a pressure washer.

Herta GmbH is a German company known for its innovative and high-quality sausage and meat products. The company is based in Herten, in the Westphalia region of Germany and has been a wholly owned subsidiary of Nestlé since 1987. It has a production site in Herten as well as sites in France.



Shuttle transport



The V2640 inspects printing, labels and sealed edges on packaging

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