

A leading Italian processed meat producer chooses a pack inspection solution from Luceo

D'Autore specialises in the deboning of cured ham and the packaging of a range of processed meat products, including cured ham, bresaola, and salami, in a plant employing 35 people. All these processes take place on a single site at Castelnuovo Rangone in Italy, where products are packed for own-label customers as well as for the D'Autore brand itself.



The requirement for computer vision inspection of the trays

Mr. Maroni, the plant director, explains the company's requirement, 'We needed to install a system capable of detecting a number of potential problems with the trays that could arise on packaging lines with an extremely high daily throughput such as ours, and which are operated by a number of different teams. We wanted to inspect for the presence of product in the seal area and the incorrect positioning or absence of the label. The two determining factors that have led us to consider a computer vision system have been our desire to increase productivity and to apply quality control procedures that are compatible with the high quality levels that we are seeking to achieve'.

The Luceo solution was selected for its flexibility, simplicity and the level of assistance that could be provided

Initially, D'Autore turned to local Italian companies, but found that none of the proposed solutions was entirely satisfactory.

Then D'Autore became aware of the many leading companies in the food processing industry currently benefitting from the computer vision inspection expertise offered by Luceo.

One important factor for D'Autore was the assistance and responsiveness that Luceo were able to offer despite the geographical distance separating the two companies. Luceo was able to test and monitor the system while it was in operation on production lines running at their normal production rates. The system was also flexible enough to inspect a wide variety of trays in a range of formats, films and colours.

D'Autore chose to install a ThermoSecure L300 system capable of carrying out all the inspections required. The operating software was both simple to use, requiring only around five minutes to programme a new product, and feature-rich in terms of data archiving for traceability and quality assurance.

ThermoSecure, a solution offering both quality and productivity

This computer vision inspection system is capable of inspecting all tray formats for a range of defects, including:

- The presence of product in the seal.
- The presence or absence of a label on the upper surface of the tray.
- The presence or absence of the UBD, with readout of the printed date and verification that it is correct.
- Verification of the barcode on the tray.
- Verification of correct film and correct film centring.
- Inspection for the presence of white fat particles in a darker product such as ham.



Mr. Maroni continues, 'The main requirement that we imposed on Luceo was a margin of error of ZERO !! Our new ThermoSecure system not only achieves this zero tolerance level, it also detects errors that are missed by the operators, who cannot be expected to check so many packages passing by so quickly, especially towards the end of a long shift'.

D'Autore recognises that quality assurance is an important foundation of their business, 'We now have the ability to generate quality reports and statistics, either in real time or later in the process, to highlight specific production problems. This is a fundamental requirement in improving production planning and reacting quickly to problems.'

A winning result for D'Autore

- Productivity increased by around 20%.
- Reliability: Continuity of inspection could not be maintained manually above a certain production rate.
- Improved quality: Zero tolerance of errors.
- Improved brand and product image

D'Autore has expressed complete satisfaction with the ThermoSecure computer vision inspection system, and is currently considering extending their collaboration with Luceo.

About Luceo Inspection Worldwide

Luceo Inspection Worldwide is a business unit within TIAMA group, the world leader in innovative inspection solutions based on computer vision technology.

Tiama is active in four major industry sectors: Automobile (Edixia), food and pharmaceutical industries (Luceo), ophthalmics (SGCC) and glass (MSC).

The Tiama group currently employs over 200 staff throughout the world, including Germany, Spain, the USA, and China.

Luceo employs a staff of 25 at their head office in France. Luceo designs, manufactures and installs a wide range of systems ensuring the quality, traceability and safety of individual packs.

www.luceo-inspection.com

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