

Visible packaging

Specialising in windowed gable-top-cartons, Italtapack of Lacedonia in southern Italy has been producing such packs for several years. The value added aspect of such cartons is that the consumer can see at a glance how much content remains or can serve exact portions. Milk, high quality fruit juice and even Italian mozzarella have been packed in such cartons.

British fruit juice producer, Ocean Spray, has had good success with this type of carton. Recently, they decided to go with Italtapack-cartons for its Cranberry juice. The new 1 litre gable-top-carton is equipped with 2 sealed windows on opposite sides. Through one window you can see the contents in the carton and on the opposite side a small and vertical window works as a measure scale showing 250 ml quantities — exactly the daily vitamin amount recommended by nutrition experts.



Based in Mettmann, Germany, Kohmann GmbH & Co. Kg developed and installed the first film sealing machine for Italtapack some six years ago and installed a second machine in March. "Conventional foils are glued into the carton, but liquid products require an absolute tight seal — 99% is not sufficient," explains Michael Kohmann, Director of Kohmann Maschinenbau who have been producing patching and lining machines since 1962.



"Our film sealing machine seals the foil resulting in 100% tightness." A PET foil, covered with PE and featuring a UV-barrier, is used for this purpose. The film material is fed separately for the sealing, then cut and placed onto the carton. Ten sealing heads — five on each side of the machine — catch the film and seal them to the board. Then the ready sealed cartons are transferred to the automatic delivery station and the sealing heads return to their start position. "Basically the machines are working 2-stream. The 10 sealing plates are equipped with replaceable sealing heads so that different window shapes can be sealed," explains Mr Kohmann. "This procedure has been developed by our company and patent applied for." Other machine components have also been patented. The machine can be operated by 2 people and is capable of sealing more than 20,000 cartons per hour.

"The principle working procedure of both machines at Italtapack is the same — and the construction of the second machine, just delivered is nearly identical. Mr Kohmann explains, "These machines have to be very reliable, because only one faulty sealed carton can result in extended downtime and

cleaning of the machine at the bottlers. The second machine was upgraded with revision of the control functions. A custom made vision system ensures that only perfectly sealed cartons leave the machine. All cartons are checked and faulty ones are ejected automatically. Furthermore, the control system cannot be switched off — i.e. if the control does not operate the whole machine stops.

Queen's Award

Beardow Adams, the producer of hot melt adhesives in the UK, is celebrating its 30th birthday by winning its fourth Queen's Award — this time for International Trade. Having won Awards for Export Achievement in 1994 and 1999, it picked up a Queen's Award for Innovation in 2002 for its BAMFutura hot melt.

Privately owned Beardow Adams, which employs 73 people, is one of Europe's top five hot melt manufacturers — a position it cemented with its takeover of Fentac Adhesives in March. Sales have grown by over 600 per cent in the last 15 years, two thirds of which now come from its export activities.