

Track performance of all seaming heads

A monitoring system for can seaming operations which analyses the condition of all turrets has been developed by OneVision.

The US company designed its AutoAlert Remote Monitor (AARM) system to take measurements of features such as the countersink, double seam height, body hook, cover hook and thickness. The unit then displays images of the seam and alerts the operator to any variables that are out of specification.

Also recently developed by OneVision is the MultiVision Measuring System, to measure flange width, bead depth and can height. These measurements are taken in a single scan which takes around five seconds, says the company, with the information then automatically recorded and displayed.

Further optional measurements include flange length, bead width, neck dimensions and roll bead height.

The unit is compatible with cans between 25mm and 266mm in height, and between diameters 200 and 610. As well as food cans, the system also operates on aerosol and beverage cans. Measurement resolution is two microns (0.0008 inches).

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Difference is clear for coating detectors

Sencon has upgraded two of its sensors to detect clear coatings on formed food cans and sheets.

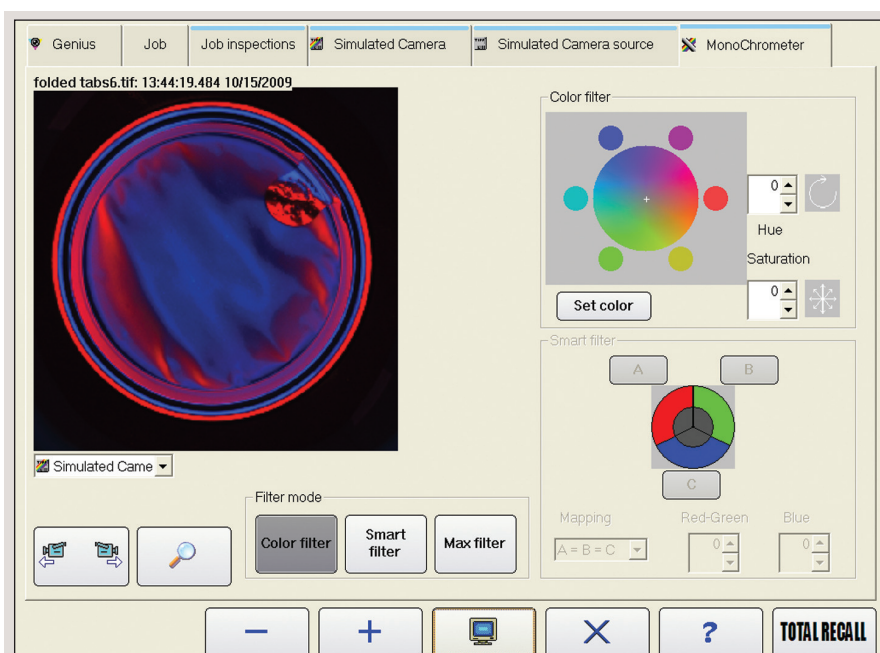
The first, the SC631, is designed to be integrated into the line after the side-stripe curing oven, to check that each can body has an internal coating. This overcomes the potential problem of body blanks being inverted during the production process, resulting in the coated side forming the outside of the can.

The second is the SC651 and is used to protect tooling from damage caused by uncoated sheets. It is fitted to the lacquering line to detect uncoated or partially-coated sheets, and if the lacquering unit is running low on lacquer. For sheets which are coated on both sides, the unit detects sheets which have been coated twice on the same side and left uncoated on the other.

Both units are now capable of detecting clear coatings, which was previously not

COMPLETE PACKAGE

The latest test and inspection equipment for three-piece can manufacturers focuses on ends just as much as can bodies. Daniel Searle reports



In-line testing for peelable food can ends

Applied Vision has installed a newly-developed vision inspection system for peelable membrane ends at US end-maker Sonoco Phoenix.

Sonoco previously used a pressurised air system to test its Ultraseal membrane ends, but the system proved to be too slow for its operation. A light-testing system created too many false rejects, as the plastics layer in the foil membrane transferred some light to the edges of the end where it passed through to the other side.

Applied Vision worked with Sonoco and Stolle Machinery's EMD Division to develop a vision tester to suit the requirements of the operation. The resulting system uses a front-lit camera to identify any malformation of the end, tab and any

issues with tab adhesion, while a back-lit camera detects pinholes and edge adhesion problems.

The system uses a different coloured light to detect if light leakage is from a pinhole or from the edge of the end, and the cause of the leak, such as a fault in the plastics layer or a damaged seal.

The tester operates with Applied Vision's Genius 300 and 500 series processors. It was installed at Sonoco earlier in the year and signed off in October.

Bill Suski, manager of special projects at Sonoco, said: "Applied Vision has created a very precise and efficient method to identify defects in foil end membranes. This will benefit Sonoco tremendously because we will inspect 100-percent in-line and good parts will no longer be rejected."

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