

The proven flexible serialization solution

for companies working in a network of companies and sites

Applying a serialized code within the production line seems like a relatively easy task, especially since various commercial solutions are available in the market. However, with the need to register these codes within a central server, a new challenge arises for pharmaceutical companies: to set up an additional, secure and error-free data handling and communication process. And with a network of production sites, contract manufacturers, re-packers and other service manufacturers, the intra-network communication may become a hugely formidable additional challenge, especially in a market environment where no standards are defined and frequent changes and updates are expected.

Motivation and approach

When Hans-Peter Supik evaluated existing serialization solutions just over a year ago, he quickly realized that these would not fulfill all his requirements and would not be flexible enough in the current environment. "We then looked in our local network and contacted REA Printing, whom we knew to be very knowledgeable in printing serialized codes. REA recommended the Omron inspection solution as the most flexible and easiest to integrate," said Hans-Peter Supik. "Today with the experience of over 1 million packages serialized, I am very happy with my choice."

The solution

The complete serialization process comprises multiple steps.

a) Randomized code generation / import

In the first step, the unique randomized code parts are imported. These codes are generated either by a department in-house or by another company (in answer to a request from a contract manufacturing or contract packaging company). The import procedure can be adapted to different situations from a basic import of an excel file via a memory stick, for example, to more sophisticated electronic data interchange and interaction with ERP systems. This is especially important for a situation where companies have a different serialization implementation status and standards are not yet implemented.

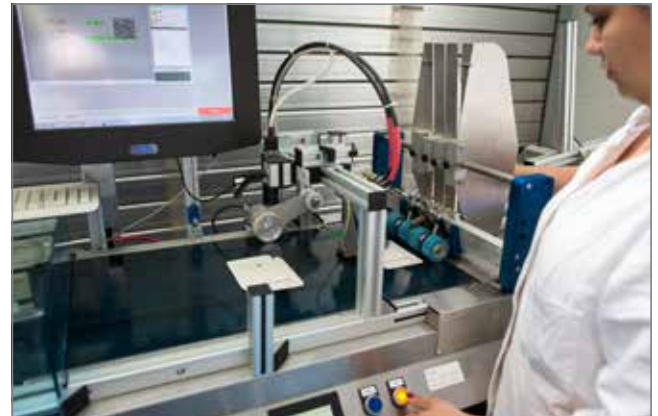
b) Recipe and data management

The unique code parts, together with the product specific information (NTIN/GTIN, PZN/PPN) as well as recipe and production information, are used to generate the data that will be printed upon the packages. Country- or company-specific adaptations can be set up and can be automatically applied (2D DataMatrix with GS1 or other content formats as well as China barcode and human readable code). The system thereby provides the flexibility to start with a few projects and step-by-step grow and expand.



c) Changeover

With several production changes per day, the time to adapt the machine and the serialization process was critical for the production line of Prestige Packaging. "With a typical changeover time of less than three minutes, we have achieved a very fast system that is at the leading edge for a flexible production line", says Hans-Peter Supik. This was achieved by using pre-configured module blocks based on the selected configurations at recipe level. The inspection tasks are automatically set up and configured in the Omron FH Inspection System and machine users just have to mechanically adjust the machine and fine tune the positioning.



d) Reporting and commissioned codes export

After the packaging and commissioning of the serialized codes, reports need to be provided for various purposes. It is very common for contract manufacturers, re-packers and other service providers that the codes are not directly communicated to the central servers (e.g. SecurPharm/ACS PharmaProtect GmbH in Germany) but are first returned to the contract issuing pharmaceutical company then imported into their ERP system and are finally uploaded to the central server.



Conclusions

More than 1 million packages already processed

"I am very happy with this solution because it works. It perfectly fits our needs and was surprisingly cost-efficient. We have a very flexible solution that can adapt to changes very quickly", says Hans-Peter Supik, owner and managing director of pharmaceutical contract packaging and service company "Prestige Packaging". "Whenever I have shown this solution to other companies, they want to have it for their own production lines. So now, in addition to using this solution ourselves, we offer it as a commercially available solution that is ideal for all mid-sized pharmaceutical companies, contract manufacturers and re-packers."

By facing the need to set up a solution for serialization at Prestige Packaging - a pharmaceutical service and contract packaging business - Hans-Peter Supik, the owner and managing director evaluated the available solutions, but he quickly realized that these would not satisfy the performance requirements of Prestige Packaging's flexible production with frequent changeovers and data interchange with multiple pharmaceutical companies with varying standards and procedures.



About Prestige Promotion / Prestige Packaging

Located in Kleinostheim, Germany in the heart of Europe, Prestige Promotion and Prestige Packaging offer a wide range of outsourcing, re-packing, distribution and service solutions to cosmetic and pharmaceutical companies. With over 20 years of experience and approx. 250 employees, Prestige Promotion and Prestige Packaging have the aim to support pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies in managing the various hurdles to market their products in the European Union.

Flexibility, reliability and a drive for innovation are thereby the guiding principles for all operations.

For more information www.prestige-promotion-web.de

About Omron

Omron Industrial Automation is a leading manufacturer of high-tech products and solutions for industrial automation. The company is part of the Omron Corporation founded in 1933 in Kyoto, Japan, and employs more than 37,000 people worldwide. The wide product range includes control, drive and safety technology, image processing and sensor systems, as well as control and switching components. The aim is to provide engineers with demand-driven, integrated automation solutions from a single source. In addition, Omron offers its customers comprehensive application know-how, as well as region-wide on-site service.