

Wrap them up *and count them out!*

Suzanne Callander takes a look at equipment that can be used to wrap and count lollipops

Theegarten-Pactec specialises in the design and manufacture of wrapping solutions for the confectionery industry. As well as individual machines, it can supply complex systems for the packaging of confectionery products such as high-boiled sweets, toffees, chewy candies, chewing gum, and chocolates in various wrapping styles and for different speeds to meet the individual requirements of a company's manufacturing program.

The most recent development from the company is a horizontal high-speed wrapping machine designed for lollipops in flow packs. The FPL is capable of wrapping up to 700ppm, depending on product shape and dimension. Products with a diameter of between 15 and 30mm and a stick length of up to 102mm can be wrapped on this machine. A vibrating sorting disk eliminates sugar dust, chips and broken pieces. A controlled plate feeding system guarantees to a high feeding efficiency.

The machine speed is automatically reduced in case of a low filling degree. By means of the rotating feeding plate the lollipops are placed into the pockets of the separating ring. A removal wheel then transfers the products from the plate to the lug chain. The chain feeds the products to the sealing unit. Three pairs of sealing rollers for the longitudinal seam and a cross sealing unit guarantee an airtight pack.

Advantages of the FPL are said to include:

- Gentle product handling at speeds of up to 700ppm.
- Automatic ejection device for spliced and unregistered products.
- Suction device for empty pouches.
- Set of three longitudinal sealing jaws driven by separate servo drive.
- Cross sealing station with separate servo drive.
- Feeding station for the wrapping material equipped with individual servo drive; automatic splicer to change paper

reels at full machine speed; pneumatic core locking and reel centering device; a photo-electric print registration; web tracking control and correction unit; and scanning and reject device for manufacturers splices.

The second machine within the production program for lollipop wrapping from the company is the LWM, a high speed continuous motion wrapping machine for

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Theegarten-Pactec's FPL horizontal high-speed wrapping machine for lollipops in flow packs, can wrap up to 700ppm



LOLLIPOP WRAPPING AND PACKAGING

lollipops in double twist wrap.

The LWM is capable of handling products in a size range of between 15 and 30mm in diameter and with a stick length of up to 102mm. Due to the gentle product handling, the machine can wrap up to 1,000ppm.

Features of the LWM include an ejection device for spliced products; saving of wrapping material by laser controlled 'no product – no paper' device; additional reel holders for a second wrapping material (under strip) with automatic splicer (optional); heated twist grippers to seal the wrapping material around the stick; infinitely variable adjustment of the twisting angle; and automatic splicer to change wrapping material without stopping the machine.