

Highest safety for pharmaceutical supply chain: Integrated track and trace EPC solution for Pharmaceutical industry

At Interpack 2008, pester pac automation, one of the leading suppliers of end-of-line packaging systems present a fully integrated track and trace solution in a pharmaceutical line. This system enables the seamless tracking and tracing of pharmaceuticals, from the single carton or bottle right up to the pallet.

Pester's consistent track and trace solution meets the increasing demands of the pharmaceutical industry to provide an end-to-end traceable drug supply chain, from manufacturer through to patient. The benefits that this entails are obvious: higher safety for drug and patient, improvement of operational efficiencies, authenticity and trademark protection, protection against drug counterfeiting and compliance to national legislation and country-specific regulations.

Pharmaceutical safety at the highest level

At Interpack 2008, Systech International, Cranbury, New Jersey and Pester will integrate Systech's Serialized Product Tracking (SPT) and Pester's end-of-line packaging solutions to demonstrate a path to operational efficiency and supply chain integrity.

For the first time, the companies will publically show the system that allows manufacturers to track and trace products at each individual stage: single carton, collation, shipping case and the complete pallet. Systech's Serialized Product Tracking is a productized software application that enables track and trace, ePedigree and authentication. SPT obtains Electronic Product Code (EPC) and establishes 'parent-child-relationships' at each level. All Systech products and applications are standards-based, 21CFR Part 11, cGMP and GAMP compliant and are being used in serialization projects by many of the industry's leading pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Ready for California ePedigree Law

The track and trace system complies with the requirements of the California's Electronic Pedigree Law which takes effect on January 1, 2009. "This system enables us to offer our customers an all-inclusive solution framework to streamline with the State's of California requirements for product serialization and electronic pedigrees. Moreover, due to its open architecture this system can be easily adapted to regulations that are specific to other countries or customers," Lorenz Fleschutz, Head of Electrical and Software Engineering at Pester, reports. "Because of our close collaboration with leading companies providing variable product serialization, camera monitoring and packaging line automation we are able to meet the latest demands and regulations."

Consistent Solution: Serialization – ePedigree - Authentication

Visitors to the Interpack will experience real-time operation of packaging line serialization. The coding across the entire end-of-line packaging line, from the stretchwrapper and side-loading casepacker to the palletizer, is implemented via a laser printer and two labelling systems. Altogether, six cameras verify the data. The software application and associated control system for collecting, archiving and evaluating all data come from Systech. An automatic discharge of faulty products is guaranteed by the cameras at each monitoring level.

Track and trace via data-matrix code

The carton packed on the pharmaceutical line and conveyed via the infeed conveyor to the stretchwrapping machine receives its first identification via the laser printer. Applying a 2D data matrix code with a unique serial number, each carton can be fully traced in the overall supply process. A camera monitors the authenticity of the data and any faulty products are discharged.

In the stretchwrapper the cartons are bundled in collations of six. Via the labeller the track and trace system generates a label which is affixed visibly on the upper side of the wrapped bundle. At the discharge area a camera verifies whether the data on the bundle are correct. At this level the unique coding allocated to every single carton can be clearly related to a collective collation.

The carton bundles are grouped in the side loader, stacked and then inserted in the shipping case. Identifying the unique codes on the single cartons, a camera verifies which collations are located in the shipping case. At the discharge area of the casepacker a label is generated for the shipping case, thus enabling a definite identification of its contents. A downstream camera monitors the data affixed.

Further on the palletizing robot places the loaded shipping cases on the pallet. Here, the labels on the case level are counter-checked by another camera. Any incorrectly or non-labelled cases are discharged at this point. In the pharmaceutical production a complete control over the entire logistic chain is guaranteed via a unique RFID or Label coding allocated to every pallet.

During Interpack experts from pester pac automation and Systech International offer advice on the subject of track and trace and also introduce and discuss other approaches such as RFID.

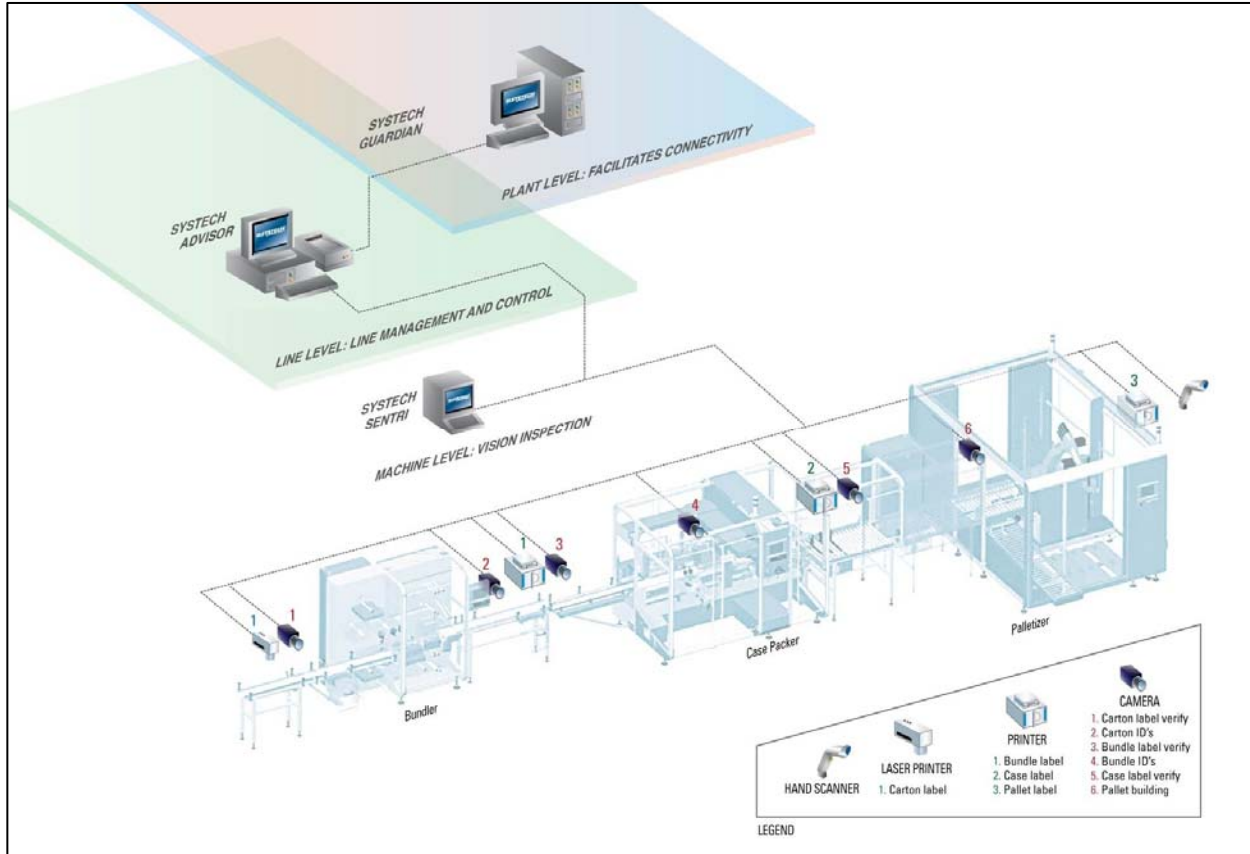


illustration 01_pester_integrated track and trace solution

pester pac automation

pester pac automation are one of the world's leading suppliers of end-of-line automation systems and specialise in the integration of high tech packaging lines. The range of products encompasses all types of final packaging, from film and case packing to palletization. Our comprehensive service provides the customer with the ultimate productivity, from the engineering itself to the validation, documentation and training.

True to the motto "Inspired by technology", Pester are developers of innovative packaging solutions for customers with individual requirements and highest standards. Well-known multinational corporate groups from the pharmaceutical, cosmetics and consumer goods industries all rank among Pester's customers. Packaging lines with the modern Pester design are installed worldwide as stand-alone machines or integrated in lines and prove their class through intelligent technology, superior quality and high productivity.

The world over, some 400 employees are responsible for individual customer support and for the integral optimization of customers' packaging processes. With their headquarters in Wolfertschwenden and subsidiaries and representatives all over the world, Pester offer their customers global service and an intact sales network.

PRESS RELEASE



Inspired by technology

Systech International

Systech International is an innovator of packaging execution systems (PES) for the pharmaceutical industry. Systech offers a suite of productized software that quickly gives manufacturers complete control over packaging processes along with the actionable intelligence required to continuously improve performance.

Systech implements vision, line management, performance metric and serialization solutions for companies around the world to secure the supply chain and to optimize packing efficiencies. By partnering with Systech, companies can leverage a scaleable, repeatable architecture, to consistently deliver significant improvements at the machine, line and plant levels. For more information about their company and products, please visit www.systech-tips.com

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