AutoCoding

The AutoCoding system can set up all packaging line devices with product specific information from either a planning system or a specific product packaging barcode scan.

AutoCoding is an extremely powerful modular application which is completely scalable. The entry level product can start with the set-up and control of a single packaging line device then, with the addition of further modules, can be expanded and extended to form an integrated MES, including packaging line operations.

Main benefits of the system are:

- Removes the risk of incorrect coding through operator error
- Removes the need for operator programming of coders and barcode scanners
- Automatic calculation of date code for each product
- Automatic selection of correct device and coding layout for each product
- Provides verification of correct product packaging through in-line barcode scanning
- Handles all "real world" factory operations and exceptions from within the standard product
- Dedicated line HMI's can be added to provide local visualization of the line equipment status and operator interaction
- Line visualization is possible via any web-enabled device, such as PC, tablet or Smartphone
- Accommodates necessary line stops and equipment breakdowns safely and securely
- Provides comprehensive line reports with a 100% event log
Seamless Integration

Through its modular expansion, the AutoCoding system can be extended to automatically set-up and control all packaging line devices, such as checkweighers and metal detectors. It can also be seamlessly integrated to leading ERP and Planning systems resulting in the AutoCoding system database being automatically populated with master SKU data.

Apex sees great potential for adding AutoCoding to the existing systems we have installed with our own customers.
Proven Products

As the scope of the AutoCoding system grows, additional modules and applications are available, as briefly described below.

Performance Monitoring
Automatic capture of real-time manufacturing data to identify and evaluate where potential problems, performance limitations and constraints exist. Provides accurate machine performance information via a suite of highly professional reports, including all the usual KPI and production metrics, eg OEE and downtime pareto etc. Resulting information assists in structuring continuous improvement efforts, identifying a need for deeper analysis and the justification of investment to reduce/eliminate manufacturing constraints. This makes business improvement decisions more easily measurable and accountable.

Vision
Flexible solutions for multi-criteria in-line inspection, ranging from simple ink detection of a date code, through to “smart” cameras and more complex bespoke vision applications for multiple inspections at high line speeds.

Paperless Quality
Automated system capture of in-line/off-line quality control processes with consolidated reports for compliance and traceability. User interface can also display relevant electronic documentation and standards for the packaging line.

Print Room
Allows for efficient off-line print management of variable data for labels, sleeve and stickers.

Unique Numbering/Traceability
As well as creating unique numbers for batch traceability, a special module exists to create unique numbers for promotional activities. These numbers can be used by our customers and their digital marketing partners.

Pallet Labeling System
Powerful standard application that integrates to all leading pallet labelers and interfaces to ERP, WMS and conveyor line control, as required. Additional module enables cases/pallets tracking throughout logistical workflow.

Generic Reporting Tool for Checkweighers & Metal Detectors
A real-time data analysis tool to monitor the performance of multiple checkweighers and metal detectors, irrespective of brand.
Since 2005 Apex has provided comprehensive end-to-end manufacturing solutions that include Automation Systems Design, Integration, Manufacturing Execution Systems, and Support. As both a Wonderware Endorsed System Integrator and a Recognized Rockwell Automation System Integrator, we are experienced and proficient in the configuration and integration of all leading PLCs and control networks, as well as other control systems and components. Similarly, our Partner, AutoCoding Systems has been developing and installing control and automation solutions for over ten years in the UK, primarily within the food and beverage sector.

They offer best in class factory automation solutions concentrating principally on the packaging line where errors can often occur due to the lack of automation and data integrity. As their lead System Integrator in the US, we are now able to introduce AutoCoding Systems’ industry leading coding and packaging verification solutions into our product portfolio.

“We at Apex are all very excited about our new partnership with AutoCoding Systems. This product allows us to introduce a proven solution to the US market that will provide Fast Moving Consumer Goods companies with standard applications that deliver value through automatic device and line set-up, thereby removing operator intervention and eliminating the risk of packaging and coding errors. AutoCoding Systems’ products align well with our existing solutions; their tried and tested modules offer flexible functionality which will be extremely valuable to our customers.”

Erik Phillips
Director: Sales & Business Development

“We are delighted to be working with Apex Manufacturing Solutions in the US. The clear synergy between our two companies makes them a perfect Partner to introduce and implement our packaging line automation solutions to the US market. With their depth of knowledge and technical expertise, we are confident that the team at Apex will deliver the best possible solution to meet customer requirements. We carefully select Partners who already have a proven, viable business within their own chosen markets and Apex Manufacturing Solutions completely fit these criteria.”

Mike Hughes
Managing Director

Call us today to arrange a no-obligation line survey and let Apex Manufacturing Solutions demonstrate how AutoCoding can eliminate coding and packaging errors, while reducing downtime on your packaging lines.

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