

MEDICAL INDUSTRY

Case Study

Product: Sharp MAX Bagging System

Packaging Medical Products

Sterilization-compliant bagging process provides low-cost solution

ADVANTAGES:

- » 30% INCREASE IN HOURLY PRODUCTIVITY
- » REDUCED LABOR COSTS



This manufacturer of laboratory disposables—test tubes and pipettes—was hand-loading bags as pieces came off an injection molder.

The company's method of production processing was to hand load bags, which is not efficient way to package products for shipment.

Besides the inherent inefficiency of hand loading, the process utilized flat bags, which required employees to try to push out as much air as possible once the bag was loaded. The loading rate was just 480 bags per hour per employee.

Stringent standards for gamma sterilization also had to be met to comply with the laboratory environments in which parts would ultimately be used.

IPS Packaging enabled the company to auto bag their products, which resulted in increased production and savings.

The Sharp MAX™ 20-inch Bagger with a custom dual-stage funnel allows this manufacturer to count / accumulate product and then seal the bag in one continuous process. As the product stream continues uninterrupted, the entire line keeps running even as the bag is sealed.

We provided the other half of the solution—gamma sterilization—with the Sharp Gamma E-Z Bags™. The “Gamma Patient” material is specifically designed for the medical industry. The all-in-one system evacuates air from the bag and allows the product to be gamma irradiated right in the bag.



“Our all-in-one system evacuates air from the bag and allows the product to be gamma irradiated right in the bag.”

When the bag reaches the point of end use, its contents can be accessed by a transverse tear, similar to a cut made by a knife. This ease of opening, with no perforations required, reduces the chance of releasing package particles into the laboratory environment.

Thermal imprinting of barcodes and variable information directly on the bag eliminates the cost of paper labels. Typically, customers can save between \$10 and \$15 per thousand in labels by printing right on the bag.



Outcome

Production for a single employee went from 480 bags per hour previously to 540 bags per hour with the Sharp MAX™. This increase in productivity allowed the manufacturer to reduce staffing in this area from 14 to 7 employees.

Formerly, the company produced 4,000 packages in a 17-hour workday. It now produces the same number in 4.67 hours.

Maximize your equipment efficiency.

To find out how you can streamline your packaging process and learn about cost savings opportunities, contact one of our highly qualified packaging specialists! Call us today at 800.277.7007.

Total Packaging Cost Summary:

- » 30% INCREASE IN HOURLY PRODUCTIVITY
- » REDUCED LABOR COSTS