

Processing and packaging equipment

The UK process and packaging equipment industry has developed considerable international expertise in sourcing, installing and commissioning complete systems



The sector includes world leaders in the design, manufacture and supply of bespoke process and packaging machinery.

Although volume production has decreased in the UK, there is still a wealth of innovative design engineers and development facilities that are frequently utilised by international companies to perfect their products.

JOINT VENTURES

Many companies recognise that a considerable percentage of their machinery construction results in high transport cost. They have consequently specifically designed component modules, the more basic of which can be manufactured in the area of installation.

PACKAGING EQUIPMENT

UK packaging equipment manufacturers produce and export a wide range of products. These include liquid powder filling machines, especially those with complex characteristics.

The leading manufacturers of liquid filling equipment include firms that, like many others across the sector, have long and established export histories, supplying equipment to more than 50 countries around the world. Many have proven track records of providing full turnkey packaging lines.

The UK also has experts in the design and manufacture of metal detection systems, including x-ray machines; product

sorting and rejection systems; and check-weighing equipment.

Among the UK specialists in this field are companies that make a broad spectrum of equipment, such as automatic weigh price labelling machines; check weighers; metal detectors; industrial platform scales; and computerised weighing systems.

LABELLING, CODING AND MARKING

Manufacturers of leading-edge coding, marking and labelling technologies can also be found in the UK. Products include systems for complex pharmaceutical labelling, as well as security labelling and tracking, such as holograms and RFID tags.

The UK has market leaders who specialise in a variety of labelling technologies from outer-box and pallet label print and application systems, to a wide range of fully automatic, main-line labelling machines for use in off-line and in-line labelling applications.

Others make machines for the high-speed and accurate placing of self-adhesive labels onto bottles, jars and containers. Companies working in the field of RFID make RFID printers and printing and application systems, as well as other security tagging applicators. Others produce a range of high-performance systems, including registration, tamper evident and combined top and bottom labellers. The technology features high-resolution thermal printing of text and barcodes. ➔



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WRAPPING, SEALING AND CARTONING

The UK specialises in flexible, high-speed and quick change flowwrapping equipment and cartoning systems. It boasts a range of manufacturers of medical packaging equipment. Companies such as Burnley Packaging Machinery and Yorkshire Packaging Systems specialise in the production of L-sealing systems. They include sleeve sealers; side sealers; shrink tunnels; stretch/pleat wrapping machines; overwrapping systems; and bunch and fold-wrapping systems. UK companies also offer specialist design and manufacture of bespoke packaging systems. Firms such as the Shrinkwrap Machinery Company and Trentpack

have long experience in designing and supplying high-speed shrinkwrap lines for a range of industries. Equipment includes high-insulation, energy-saving shrink tunnels; conveyor systems; crate stackers; and tray-erecting and loading systems. Companies offer a full and comprehensive service, from initial consultation to machinery design and manufacture, as well as commissioning and after-sales care. Manufacturers of versatile and high-speed cut and wrap machines can also be found. They include AMP Rose, which makes equipment for a range of wrapping styles for confectionery, at up to 1,000 sweets per minute.



The UK has an excellent reputation for overseas training in the use of process and packaging machinery

PROCESSING MACHINERY

The UK process machinery sector specialises in making equipment for the bakery and confectionery industries; powder handling, cereals, pharmaceuticals and snack food operations; and the mixing, blending and dosing of beverages.

Leaders in the field include specialists who design, supply, install and commission complete turnkey projects. They offer a complete range of machines for canning and freezing, as well as technology to meet the other needs of the preserves, pickles, drinks, snack foods and ready meals manufacturing industries. UK specialists in this area export to countries across the world and design and manufacture bespoke food processing machinery.

Other companies have many years' experience in the production and supply of conveying, weighing, blending, filling and discharge equipment for the processing and handling of dry bulk solids and ingredients. Some have 30-year track records in the manufacture and supply of such

items as spiral conveying and bulk bag discharging systems; completing thousands of installations over the years. Companies offer a range of equipment including flexible spiral conveyors; aero-mechanical conveyors; metering and blending systems; batch and continuous weigh systems and continuous mixing systems.

The UK is home to a range of companies that service the process and packaging needs of the pharmaceuticals sector. They include firms that produce the latest equipment for tablet and capsule feeding; computer-aided design is also used to produce pack layouts based on individual customer requirements.

TRAINING

The UK has an excellent reputation for in-market training in the use of process and packaging machinery. UK companies can train people to enable them to meet the demands of complex modern systems and global regulations. Many of these standards originated in the UK and have been practised and perfected during production. ■

i FOR MORE INFORMATION

Process and Packaging Machinery Association www.ppma.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8773 8111