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FOOD & BEVERAGE APPLICATIONS

Manufacturers of food and beverage products and containers use machine vision to help ensure consistent product quality and safety, reduce scrap, and streamline the manufacturing process. Following are just a few examples of how In-Sight can be used in the food and beverage manufacturing process.

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Measuring label position on soda bottles.



[\[Click to Enlarge\]](#)

Customer Problem

A manufacturer of plastic bottles needed to add high-accuracy machine vision to its line to ensure the straightness of labels on soda bottles. If even a single bottle did not meet the high aesthetic quality demands of the manufacturer's customer, entire shipments would be sent back. Since new beverages were constantly being introduced, it was also important that plant engineers be able to easily and quickly re-teach the vision system on new bottle sizes, shapes and label treatments.

Solution

In-Sight can check for the straightness of each label by determining how closely the label ends match up at the seam. Results can then be compared to a set tolerance, and bottles with labels skewed beyond tolerance will be diverted to a separate bin for re-labeling. When a new product is introduced to the line, plant engineers can quickly re-teach In-Sight on the new bottle configuration by simply placing the part in front of the camera, capturing an image, and saving the image into the processor's memory.

Verifying the assembly of snack-packs.



[\[Click to Enlarge\]](#)

Customer Problem

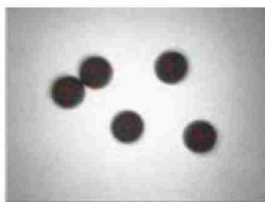
A food manufacturer needed to automate the process of checking snack-packs for proper assembly. Due to mechanical problems with the cheese-filler machine, the packs were occasionally being shipped to retailers with an insufficient amount of cheese. While the inspections had been done manually on a random sample basis, the

need for 100% inspection had become critical since one of the retailers was threatening to discontinue sales of the product line.

Solution

In-Sight can look at every snack-pack coming down the line to ensure all contents are present. It can also detect if the seal between the foil backing and plastic has been broken, helping to avoid the risk of product contamination. Upon finding defects, In-Sight can also alert line operators to machine problems so the line can be shut down before additional defective packages are produced.

Locating chocolates for robot picking.



Customer Problem

A maker of premium chocolates needed a more cost-effective and reliable way of guiding a robot for picking and placing individual chocolates into wrappers. While a general-purpose vision system was being used, it was expensive to maintain and often had difficulty locating chocolates that were overlapped by others on the line. The system was also sensitive to chocolate smudges on the conveyor surface, occasionally confusing the marks for chocolates.

Solution

With In-Sight, the chocolates can be reliably located on the conveyor – at a fraction of the cost of the previous vision system. Its *PatFind™* part location tool is able to locate the chocolates at random as they move down the line, and its unique ability to tolerate overlapping and confusing backgrounds can lead to higher packaging yields.

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