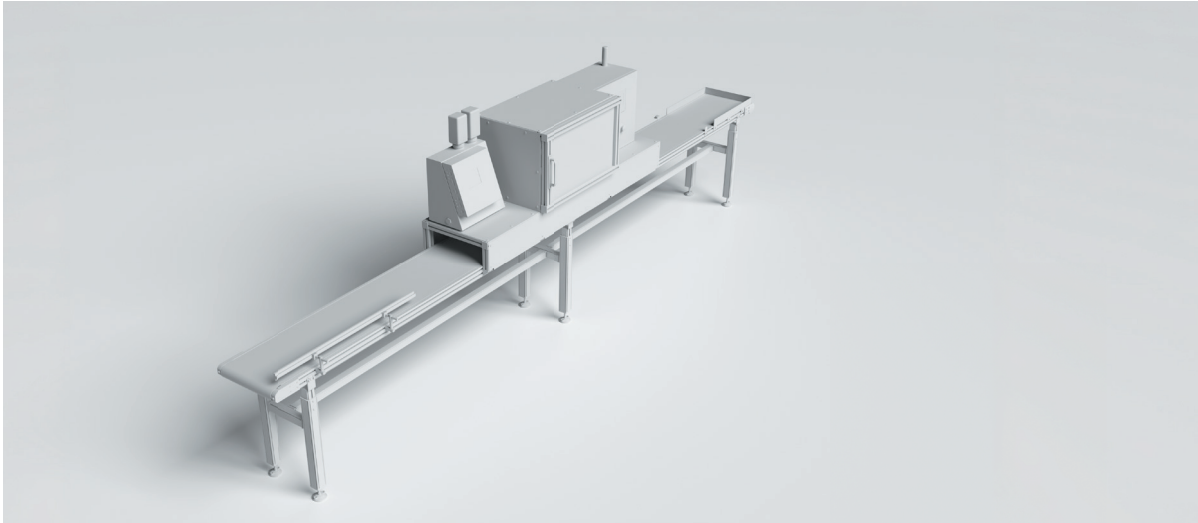


Food labelling



Task

Food products must be labeled with a predefined time stamp to show the customer the expiry date. Products do not always display the time stamp in the same place. Moreover, the product's barcode must be read to ensure quality and production safety.

Solution

A conveyor belt is used, onto which the products are placed manually. The products are conveyed into the processing room. There, the product is identified by a barcode scanner. A control system then calls up the correct product using the inkjet printer and prints. The print head should be mounted on two axes so that it can print on the product in the correct place with the required distance. There should be a buffer area for collecting products at the end of the belt. When this is full, the system should stop.

Result

The 5m-long conveyor belt runs continuously at 13 m/min and prints 2,340 timestamps per hour. The products are placed on the belt by hand. In the processing room, the barcode is scanned with a camera and the product is checked. The identified product is transferred to the inkjet printer by the control system and the Y/Z axes are positioned. The time stamp print can be shifted in the X direction using a time delay. When changing a product, the conveyor belt is briefly stopped and the print head is repositioned.

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