



L to R: Falconer Print & Packaging's John Sherwood (Commercial Director), Richard Martin (Production Director) and Hadyn Bradbury (Managing Director).

BRAILLE INSPECTION

Falconer Print & Packaging recently enhanced its production capabilities becoming the first company in the UK to install W. H. Leary's new in-line Braille inspection system. The purchase was part of a wider project to increase capacity in the finishing department, which included the installation of a new Heidelberg Diana X gluer with integrated in-line Braille embossing. The investment will enable the Elland-based firm to better respond to its customers legal requirements to include Braille on all pharmaceutical packaging.

Managing Director, Hadyn Bradbury, explains why in-line Braille embossing was a prerequisite for the business, "Pharmaceuticals represent over 30% of our turnover and volume is growing year on year — the inclusion of Braille on these products is mandatory. To date we have embossed Braille in the die-cutting process and while this time proven method has served us well, when we learned of the new in-line embossing option we were keen to explore this further.

"Tooling costs to produce Braille on die cutters can be very expensive with each job requiring up to 24 individual braille tools. With typical make ready times being more than double that of a non-Brailled job, we were confident that moving the embossing process to the folder gluer would prove significantly more cost effective."

Improved Quality

Richard Martin, Production Director at Falconer comments, "Our customers demand the very highest levels of quality from us — and we expect to deliver nothing less. Our stringent quality control processes are rigorously observed and our customers have confidence in our ability to deliver 100% fit for use cartons.

"With regards to quality, the upside to producing Braille in-line on the gluer is that it removes the risk of variable embossing quality between die stations — a possibility when embossing Braille on die-cutters and something our quality control procedures secured against in the past. Conversely, with in-line embossing on the gluer we recognised that we may be less likely to identify any potential quality issues with the Braille as products are packed immediately after the folding and gluing process. We knew that in-line Braille inspection was imperative. Heidelberg advised us to contact W. H. Leary and within days we had ordered the company's first in-line Braille inspection system in the UK."

Technical Data

W. H. Leary's new Braille inspection system employs very high-speed camera based technology, together with some of the most powerful processing hardware,

BRaille INSPECTION



to achieve inline Braille inspection at speeds in excess of 150,000 cartons per hour.

In developing the inspection system, the company focused on delivering secure inspection without demanding any specific knowledge or expertise on the part of the user. The outcome is a system

that learns the embossed Braille with the touch of a button, the Braille is displayed, decoded and translated on a touch screen panel to be verified as correct by the operator. Once verified, every carton is scanned to confirm a perfect match.

Every Braille dot is inspected for relative position and quality, along with registration and squareness of the entire text, giving complete assurance that the Braille is both correct and readable. This ensures conformity with the customer's legislative requirements.

The fully integrated head unit contains both the camera and the high-powered solid state L.E.D. lighting, the significance of this being that hardware set-up is virtually eliminated from the process – simply position the head unit in line with the Braille and you're ready to go.

Braille Inspection Head

Gary Roberts, Sales Manager for W. H. Leary adds, "The new Braille inspection system is a huge triumph for us. In bringing it to market, we've done what we do best – listened to our customers recognised and understood the principal requirements and delivered a solution that fits. We know our customers and we knew that ease of use was vital in developing a workable in-line Braille inspection solution. We've done it – this is a system that requires nothing more of the operator than to position the reading head in line with the Braille. There are absolutely no adjustments required and setup is completed in just 2 minutes."

Falconer's Diana gluer is also equipped with Leary's Array™ multi-functional gluing and quality inspection system, which controls glue application, glue inspection, pharmacode scanning and the in-line Braille system. The system integrates with Heidelberg's integrated carton ejection system to achieve secure tracking and ejection control.

Hadyn Bradbury concludes, "We are delighted with the new Braille inspection system. On-screen Braille verification and translation provides complete confidence and the assurance our customers need that every carton we produce has perfectly embossed Braille. Several of our customers have visited us to audit the new line and it's the Leary Braille inspection system that has been the real show-piece, our customers have been hugely impressed with its capabilities – their reaction has been extremely positive."