Blister line BEC 400

UHLMANN EXTENDS THE BEC FAMILY

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UHLMANN PAC-SYSTEME GMBH & CO. KG LAUNCHED ITS FIRST BEC BLISTER LINE IN 2009. THE COMPACT COMBINATION OF A BLISTER AND A CARTONER MODULE IS SUCCESSFULLY OPERATING IN ABOUT 50 COUNTRIES IN THE MEANTIME.

The company recently presented its fourth member of the BEC family at the Achema trade show in Frankfurt: the Blister line BEC 400 with a maximum output of 400 blisters and 150 cartons per minute. The aim of Uhlmann is to offer the appropriate blister line to meet every need and every budget. By adding the BEC 400, the company now has a line that is positioned between the BEC 300 and the BEC 500 in terms of price and performance. Furthermore, several functions have been refined, one example being the transfer from the punch to the cartoner module.

The new Blister line BEC 400 is less than nine meters in length and packages solid dose products. It is geared to medium-sized production batches. The line handles large blisters up to 100 x 165 mm in size as well as large-volume cartons particularly efficiently and cost-effectively.

Format Changeovers in Less Than 30 Minutes

Short format changeovers are a key feature of the BEC family and this also applies to the BEC 400. All the modules operate with just a few format parts that can be exchanged without the need for tools. The whole line permits good visibility and is easy to clean. The SmartControl operating system guides the operator through the cleaning and format changeover processes. This means that a changeover to a different format on the BEC 400 is possible in less than 30 minutes even for staff without specialised knowledge. “The fast format changeovers give users a high degree of flexibility. We notice that this is becoming increasingly important for all pharmaceutical companies, whether original manufacturers, generics specialists, or contract packagers. There are fewer blockbusters and an increasing number of pack variations of a product. At the same time, trained experts are not always available at all production locations. Lines like the BEC 400 are needed in order to be able to package small and medium-sized batches reliably and cost-effectively”, explains Jürgen Walser, Global Product Manager at Uhlmann.
New: The Direct, Compact Blister Transfer

Uhlmann has based the BEC 400 on a tried-and-tested principle. Nevertheless, the design engineers have modified or redesigned key functions. For example, the BEC 400 has a direct blister transfer from the punch to the cartoner module. “The new blister transfer is gentle to the products and ensures process reliability. The blisters are passed to the cartoner module in just two process steps, which is beneficial in various respects. The line is shorter, measuring less than nine meters in length, and the primary and secondary packaging areas can be clearly separated. A further reduction in energy consumption has also been attained, and fewer format parts mean even shorter format changeover times,” states Jürgen Walser.

The BEC 400 is of particular interest to pharmaceutical manufacturers already operating a Blister line BEC 500. As the same blister module is integrated, available format parts can be used for both lines.

Patented Solution with a Dual Function

Combining the visual inspection and ‘forensic’ analysis of solid dose products. The system ensures that all the inspected and packaged products are in perfect order regarding visual appearance and substances. The downstream cartoner module allows the integration of printing and monitoring systems for Track & Trace applications, a key benefit in view of the confined space in pharmaceutical production. Moreover, all standard forms of carton closure, such as tuck-in, hot-melt, or using a fourth flap, can be realised.

Keen Interest on the Part of Customers

The considerable interest shown by customers indicates that there is a market for the BEC 400 in addition to the Blister lines BEC 300, BEC 500, and BEC 700. “By launching the BEC 400, we are now able to offer a cost-efficient and extremely flexible blister line for an output range of up to 400 blisters and 150 cartons per minute,” says Jürgen Walser. “The latest inquiries already indicate that we are on course with this concept.”

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