Coding and Marking Solutions
for Pharmaceutical Packaging

PHARMA

introduction

Coding and marking solutions for pharmaceutical packaging

Coding and marking in the pharmaceutical industry is not an option; it's mandatory. The right solution helps to protect brands, manage the supply chain, aid quick product recalls and deliver an overall better experience to the consumer.

Our coding solutions are easily integrated into existing production lines to ensure consistent, quality printing for serialisation, track and trace initiatives and anti-counterfeiting to comply with falsified medicines directives.

whychooseus?

Over the past 20 years we have worked with many producers and manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, offering our expertise and industry knowledge to help provide them with the best solution to print high quality codes, whilst also meeting the required coding and marking standards and legislation.

We approach each project with equal standards of care and commitment, to guarantee total customer satisfaction. After installation we provide a total support service offering a full range of consumables, along with ongoing advice and consultancy as required.

"Innovative, customer focused, coding and marking solutions."

typicalapplications

Codes on pharmaceutical packs need to be right first time, every time.

We can offer a range of systems that can handle any type of pharmaceutical pack, along with reliable, easy-to-use thermal inkjet (TIJ) printers which deliver excellent print quality and definition. Camera systems with reject devices are available on our RF Compliance systems.

Typical applications include:

- Batch number and expiry date coding of cartons
- Multi-lane printing on strip packers and sachet machines
- Blister pack coding
- Serialisation system for FMD compliance
- Printing of datamatrix barcodes to GS1 standard
- Coding of labels

onlineoroffline?

Although printing products online as part of the production process is generally favoured it is not always possible. We can offer both online and offline solutions to best suit the application in question.

Why go offline?

Whilst many inline coders are capable of reliably producing readable 2D codes, there are several reasons why you may take the process offline.

Datamatrix barcoding in particular requires near perfect presentation of a carton to the printer to achieve the highest verification grade and accurate feeding is crucial to ensure consistent print quality. With an online system, the necessary accuracy will rarely be achieved without the addition of an extra line element that controls the carton during print and inspection. This can have serious space implications and revalidation issues.

Integrating a coding station into the line that can print and verify datamatrix codes at high speeds can compromise line efficiency.

By taking this process offline, the cartons are brought to the line ready printed and inspected, complying with the new legislation without impacting on production, eliminating any delays due to coding issues.

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thermal**inkjet**technology

The proof is in the print

Thermal inkjet (TIJ) has long been the dominant coding method within the pharmaceutical packaging industry, largely due to its unparalleled ability to print ultra-high resolution variable date codes, logos and unique barcodes via a reliable, clean and easy-to-use system.

Our printers are capable of printing ANSI Grade A GS1 compliant barcodes, date codes and 2D Datamatrix barcodes on both porous and non-porous substrates.

the**benefits**

RELIABLE
- Works first time, every time
- Starts instantly, shuts down instantly

EASY TO USE
- Direct data input available on printer
- Intuitive, free, format design software package
- Cartridges simply clip in and out

COST EFFECTIVE
- Low capital cost of equipment
- Single consumable cartridge
- No maintenance

"As well as being an ideal partner to our offline feeding systems, our thermal inkjet printers can be easily integrated into existing production lines with minimal disruption."

carton**coding**

Depending on the application and throughput requirements, the following challenges can mean that cartons - particularly pharmaceutical cartons - are best coded using an offline solution.

- Formed cartons can be difficult to control for online datamatrix coding
- Smaller volumes of a larger range may mean an offline solution is better suited

CIP-13 datamatrix barcoding to ISO/IEC 15415 demands near perfect presentation of a carton to the printer, (most commonly a thermal inkjet printer) in order to achieve the highest verification grade. Offline feeding and printing of cartons is ideal for this application and allows for the inspection of the datamatrix barcode, OCR text and pharmacode.

RFCompliance

Takes the complexity out of serialisation

The RF Compliance has been specifically designed to allow pharmaceutical manufacturers to feed, print and inspect cartons offline. It comes complete with a full validation package, a reject system for automatic removal of reject cartons and a shingling (accumulation) conveyor to maintain high throughput whilst still being easy to operate.

Integral inspection of printed information and pharmacode verifies that datamatix codes and human readable information, such as expiry dates and lot codes are correct. Operator control is via a 12 inch Siemens HMI and the electrical panel is incorporated within the main machine for easy access.

The flexible system can code on to a range of pharmaceutical packaging formats, including cartons, wallets, sleeves and crash-lock cartons, at speeds of up to 200 packs per minute. It can handle pack sizes from 60 x 70mm up to 350 x 350mm.

Key features and benefits

- Available in two different feeding methods, for consistent and high speed feeding of cartons, including crash-lock
- Automatic reject system and integral shingling conveyor
- Various inspection functions can be carried out to ensure both that the correct product is being used and that the correct information has been added to the pack
- Able to accomodate a wide range of printers, cameras and labellers
- Pre-printing of cartons allows for multiple lines, or even several hand-packing stations, to be supplied
- No need to "break" a line to add a coding and inspection station

The Compliance is available in three different build standards:

Feeder only
Print and Inspect
Serialisation

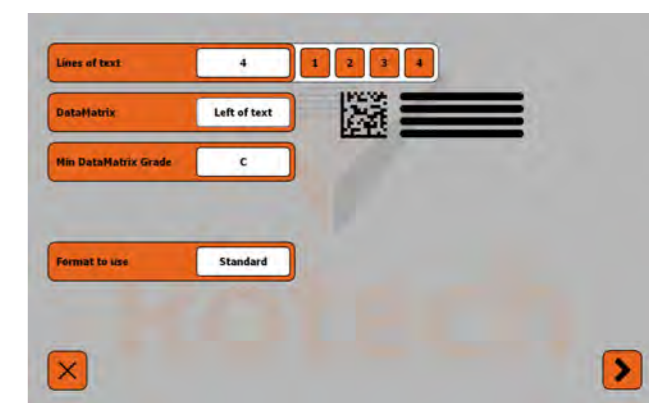There are three modes of operation to the serialisation model

Mode 1 - show and go

A "show and go" solution which is not serialised that prints fixed information onto the carton (i.e. the same on every carton but entered at the start of the batch). The job is loaded onto the printer, then shown to the camera which uses this as the reference model.
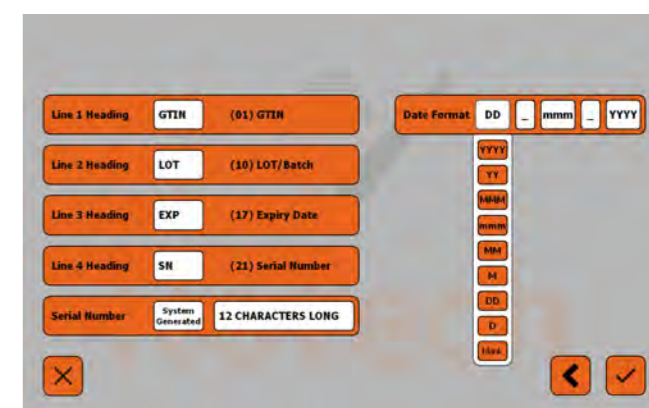

Mode 2 - Design wizard

Using the "design wizard" a format can be quickly created that allows for up to four lines of text as well as a datamatrix barcode to be printed. The information is automatically loaded into both printer and camera and can contain free text or GS1 Application Identifier Fields, including either a system-generated serial number, or a serial number from an external database.

Mode 3 - Serialisation via database

Permits batch information to be selected by reference to an external database where all data is provided from the external source and automatically loaded into both the printer and the camera, eliminating any operator input of data. This will include serialisation codes if they are present in the database.
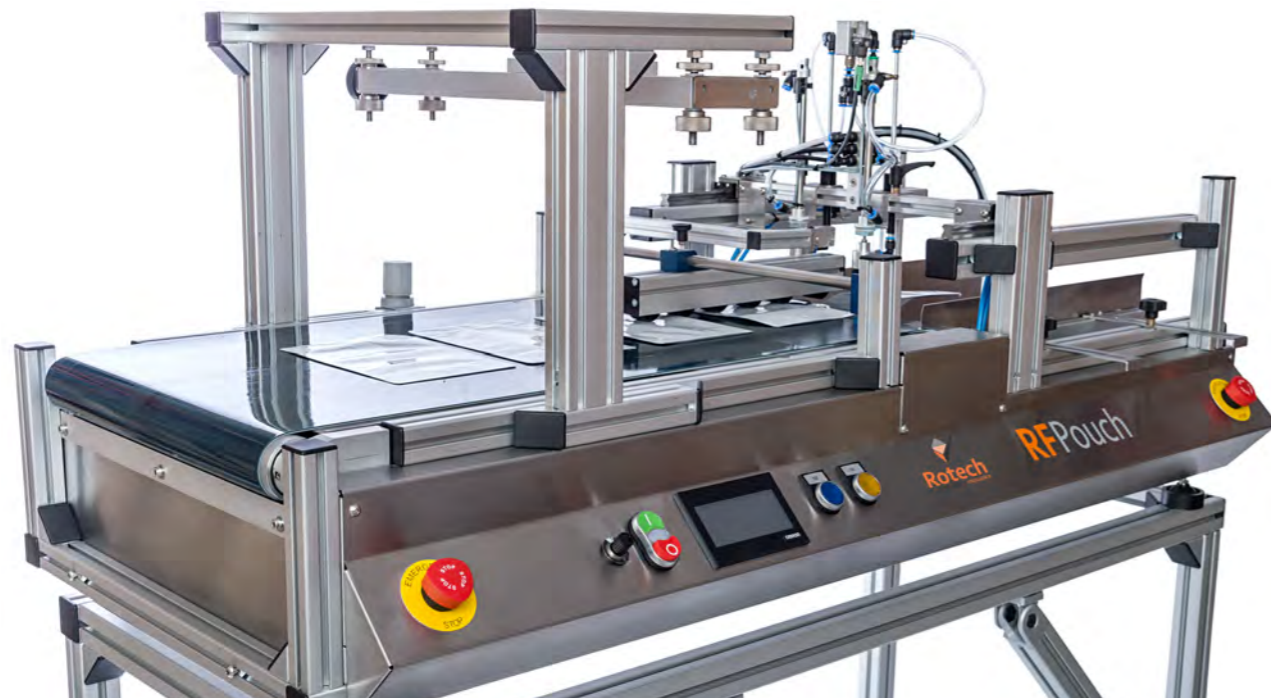
bag&pouch**coding**

If a pre-formed bag or pouch needs coding or labelling, we can offer a number of solutions to accommodate a wide range of size and materials. Whether an online or offline solution is required, we have a range of feeders and printers available.

If only a small amount of information is to be printed on the product, such as a 'use by' or 'best before' date, an inkjet printer could be used. When a large amount of information needs to be printed, for example: a product description or ingredients' declaration, a Thermal Transfer (TTO) printer is used.

Thermal inkjet is an ideal online printing solution as it's easily integrated into machines that wrap a flexible packaging material (e.g. paper, aluminium, plastic film) around a product or group of products. Typically, printers are fitted to flow-wrappers, overwrapping and horizontal form fill seal machines.

RFPouch

Using vacuum (pick and place) technology, the RF Pouch can transport a wide range of pouches and other flexible packaging. The system picks a product from a stack, places it onto a conveyor for printing and/or labelling before transferring the marked pack neatly onto another stack, ready for collection.
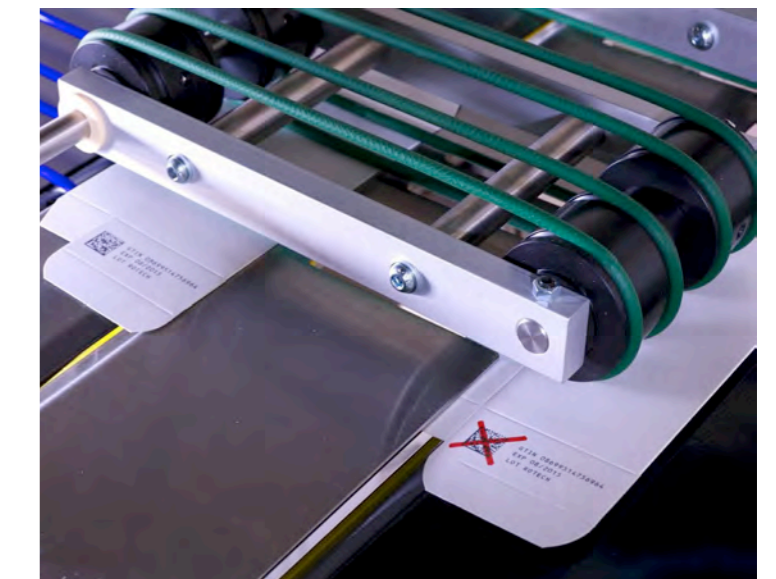
Key features and benefits

- Unique feeding system for flexible packaging
- Versatile vacuum cups with quick adjustment, minimalising downtime
- The RF Pouch can be fitted with a wide range of coding, marking and labelling technologies as well as post-print inspection systems

we**are**unique

Custom systems

Whilst our standard range of feeding systems are able to meet the majority of our customers needs, there are occasions where a custom machine may be required in order to meet a specific application; for example, coding an exceptionally wide or narrow product.

As all of our systems are designed and built in house, we are able to modify and customise our range to meet particular customer requirements - something many of our competitors are unable to offer.
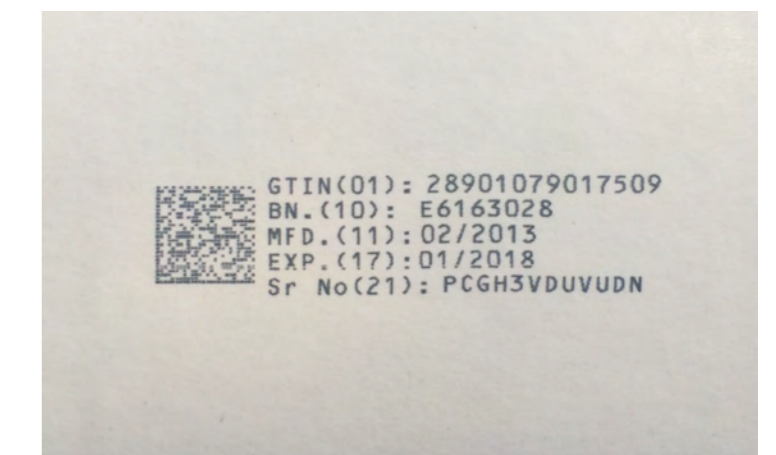

Free print sample service

There's no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to coding your product or packaging. Each application is unique and comes with its own set of challenges and factors to put into consideration.

Here at Rotech we offer a free print sample service. Simply send us some samples of your product along with your coding requirements and we will find you the ideal solution by running them on our systems here at the factory.

Alternatively, we can arrange for one of our sales engineers to visit and give you a free on-site demonstration.

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our**story**

Founded in 1997, Rotech has grown to become one of the most respected coding and marking specialists in the UK. Our privately owned business has built a reputation of providing a valuable, end-to-end service - from consultancy and advice, through to product installation and ongoing support.

Our success is due to our expertise and our ability to listen and solve problems. No matter how small or how significant, we will always deliver the right solution in terms of efficiency, sustainability and quality engineering.

Our extensive knowledge of coding and marking technology, combined with our friendly, reliable, 'can-do' attitude has led us to being trusted and respected by organisations right across the packaging industry, both in the UK and internationally.

Rotech

THE CODE MARK OF **EXCELLENCE**

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PPMA
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