

NEWS & VIEWS

SPC for Free

From time to time we get involved in helping to connect our quality gauges to customer's software for Statistical Process Control and Quality reporting, so we have seen a few. Many are good, but just over a year ago we came across one that was exceptionally good.

This package was "Sentinel" from an Australian company called Advanced Process Control (or APC for short). Digging a little deeper, we discovered that these people have can industry backgrounds and have developed their product around can industry requirements. No wonder it was so impressive.

Further good news was that APC have other compatible modules to handle production monitoring with equipment performance, downtime and spoilage monitoring. They were also working on yet further extensions, to take in the materials and warehouse operations. It was getting even better!

The final surprise was their prices. Because APC offer the software in scaleable modules it is possible to get started with a single PC for a few hundred dollars. So we worked with APC to make sure their software included drivers for all Sencon gauges, and now Sencon's in-process monitoring products too.

We have also secured a unique deal, to give away a full working version of the SPC package plus connection cables with every new Sencon Enamel Rater or Digital Film Weight Gauge sold. This version is called QC lite and is limited to input from a single gauge. If customers then want to upgrade to a multi gauge input version, we can upgrade you to QC Plus at very attractive prices.

Any can or end maker, interested in acquiring or improving their SPC or performance monitoring systems should call us to discuss.



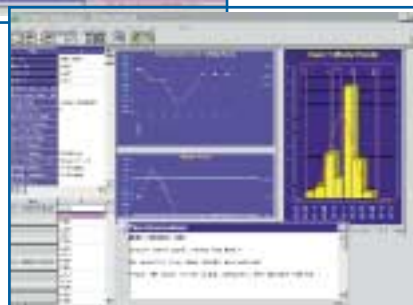
SI9100 Enamel Rater



SI9500+ Digital Film Weight gauge



QC Lite Screen shots



For more information please tick 'SPC for free' on the reply sheet

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SENCON
CONTROL DOWN THE LINE



Perfect bottoms

It's only a small part of the beverage can making process, but the bottom rim coater plays an important role in assuring the can's quality and performance. Once adjusted, these coaters run without needing much attention. However, if the coating is allowed to thicken, then poor quality cans and customer complaint will result.



Trials have shown that actual viscosity and solids ratio vary across a very wide band when left in the hands of operators. This source of process variation can be eliminated by automatically controlling the coating viscosity.

Automatic control has been achieved using Sencon's SC500 viscosity control system. This unit, already well proven on over-varnish and base-coat applications, will continuously monitor viscosity and temperature then carefully control the addition of solvent to keep the coating

material in perfect shape. This will eliminate process variation, excessive material costs and keep those can bases as smooth as a baby's bottom!



Automatic Viscosity Controller SC500

For more information please tick 'SC500' on the reply sheet

No adjustment - No problem

One of the well known laws of manufacturing is "if it can go wrong, it will go wrong" and anybody in can making will recognise the grim truth of this. But a less well know variation of this law still catches many people out. This variation reads, "**if it can be adjusted, it will be wrongly adjusted**".

At Sencon we have recognised this for years and have tried very hard to eliminate the need for adjustment of our products. We have can-line sensors, machine sensors, control modules, miss-spray detectors, vision systems and double sheet detectors all of which have self adjustment or auto learn features.

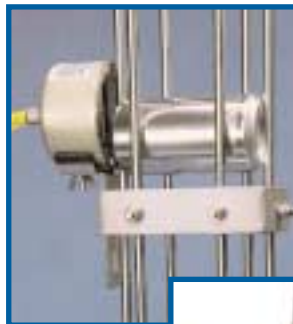
This may seem a small benefit but the consequences are potentially significant. Take double sheet detectors as an example. The only time that you

find out one has been incorrectly adjusted is when you are investigating how thousands of dollars of tooling damage has occurred. But if it is a Sencon SC230 double sheet detector it can't be mal-adjusted so it won't go wrong.



Self-Calibrating Double Sheet Detector

Self adjusting Mis-Spray Detector SC7000+



BCM 500 Bodymaker control unit, automatically compensates for differing punch materials

Long Term Support

Sencon Inc was founded in 1976, so this year marks our 25th anniversary of supplying sensors, controls and instruments to the can industry. We are proud of our achievements, especially when we look around at the number of other can industry suppliers that have gone out of business in that time.

This longevity is due to the continuing support from you, our customers. Everybody at Sencon is grateful for the continuing interest in our products, both old and new, and we hope you see the mutual benefit in this long term relationship. When you specify Sencon you can be confident in our being around to help you get the benefit from your investment.

1795	Napoleon offers a 12,000 franc prize for a method of preserving food for his armies.	1920's	Developments in the improvement of the can linings are introduced to lengthen the life of the contents, using zinc compounds.
1810	Nicolas Appert, a French confectioner, wins the prize. He experimented for several years before preserving food by sterilisation.	1922	American invention for "crimping" lids onto cans is introduced in Europe.
1810	Englishman, Peter Durand patents the food canning process.	1935	The first flat-top can of beer appeared for sale in Richmond, Virginia.
1812	Thomas Kensett, sets up a small plant on the New York waterfront to can the first hermetically sealed oysters, meats, fruits and vegetables in the United States.	1963	American, Ernie Frazee, of the Dayton Reliable Tool Company, working with Alcoa, invents the aluminium easy-open end.
1813	Bryan Donkin and John Hall, used Durand's patent. After experimenting for at least a year they set up a commercial canning factory and by 1813 were sending tinned food to British army and navy authorities for trial.	1964	The two-piece can, made from an aluminium impact extrusion, is developed in the United States.
1814	Some of Donkin & Hall's tinned foods were sent to British military bases. On the list, ironically, was the island of St. Helena, to which Napoleon Bonaparte was destined to be exiled.	1966-67	The two-piece "drawn and wall ironed" (DWI) can is developed in the United States.
1825	Thomas Kensett is granted a patent for preserving food in "vessels of tin," by President James Monroe.	1970	Tinplate two-piece DWI cans are launched in Britain followed later in the 1970s by aluminium two-piece DWI cans.
1846	Henry Evans invents a die device for making a can in a single operation.	1976	Sencon founded to supply sensors and controls for DWI can making.
1847	An American, Allen Taylor, patents a machine-stamped tin can.	1986	On-line nitrogen injection allows use of beverage cans for still drinks.
1850-70	Techniques are perfected for sealing tin cans with various types of soldering processes.	1987	"206" diameter can end introduced.
1877	Simplified "side seamer" for cans is introduced.	1987	Sencon open European headquarters in Worcester England.
1885	"Condensed" milk is first canned in the United States.	1989	Introduction of retained ring-pull ends.
1900	The "sanitary" open-top can is developed in Europe for food. Can lids, however, are still soldered by hand after the food has been put into the can.	1991	"202" and "204" diameter can ends introduced.
1914	Continuous ovens for drying print on tinplate cans are introduced.	1992	"Widget" technology introduced for draught beer in cans.
		1992	Sencon develop fully automatic quality assurance gauges.
		1995	Sencon create specialist team to focus on improvements in 3 pc can manufacture.
		2001	Sencon regional office opens in Southern France, adding to 25 years of long-term customer support.



Mixed Aerosols

The highly successful Mixed Can Inspection system has gained a completely new use in the Aerosol can production line.

Mixed Can Inspection is common in the beverage can industry to recognise and reject incorrectly decorated cans from the production line.

In 3 piece aerosol can production, the can body is decorated as a flat sheet before being cut into body blanks, prior to welding. Occasionally these body blanks can get turned around or inverted during the handling process between the slitter and the welder. The result of this is a can body with the decoration upside down or inside out. Neither situation is appreciated by the customer.

Sencon's Mixed Can Inspection



Upside down Body Blanks

No white base coat

system is ideal, as it is designed to recognise can decoration which is out of the ordinary. It does this by self learning the current can design while rejecting any design which it determines as being different.

Ease of use is a key advantage of the Sencon MCL, as although this is a sophisticated vision inspection system it has only

three operator buttons, Stop, Train and Run. During a label change the train button needs to be pressed. When production restarts, the system will learn the new label design while keeping a watch for any of the old design, which it will reject. Normal process variation in the decoration is allowed for, resulting in a very low false reject rate while keeping a 100% check on the quality of labels that you send to your customer.

With ever growing expectations of 'Zero defect' deliveries, the MCL inspection system is a proven tool for preventing label problems reaching your customers.



For more information please tick 'MCL' on the reply sheet

In Brief

A big thank you to all of the Sencon customers who have benefited from over 450 Sencon Light Tester packages now out in the field.

Having installed the latest End Light Tester Package (ELTP) in China recently, this makes the Sencon ELTP and the Can Light Tester Upgrade Package (ULTP) the most popular light testing solutions available in the industry.



Reynolds RT-6 Light Tester fitted with the ULTP up-grade

Over the past 4 years Sencon has gained an enviable reputation for both its End light testing and Can Light tester upgrades. The ELTP is mounted on the outfeed of the end conversion press where it accurately inspects 100% of production. In the case of the ULTP, the Reynolds RT6 Light Tester was originally fitted with a light detector similar in concept to a military night sight called a photomultiplier. These devices need regular adjustment and have a limited life span. Sencon's upgrade package replaces the photomultiplier with a rugged solid state detector and simplified light source. Although similar in performance the Sencon detector does not need regular adjustment or suffer from degradation over time.



ELTP Detector head



ELTP Infra Red Light Source

For more information please tick either: 'End Light Testing' or 'Light Tester Up-grade' on the reply sheet

We speak your language

Wherever you are in the World, we probably have a staff member or regional agent that speaks your language.

So to help these customers that have difficulty emailing in English we have set-up the following email addresses directed to the appropriate person.

Region

China:
Germany:
Holland:
France:
Greece:
Indonesian
Italy:
Japan
Korea
Romania:
Spanish (Europe & Asia)
Spanish (Latin America)
Danish/ Swedish
Norwegian / Finish
Thailand
Taiwan R.O.C.

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Email: Espagnol@sencon.co.uk
Email: sales@senconinc.com
Email: Scandinavia@sencon.co.uk

Email: Thailand@sencon.co.uk
Email: Taiwan@sencon.co.uk

THE AMERICAS
Sencon Incorporated,
6385 W. 74th Street,
Bedford Park, IL 60638, USA.
Telephone: +1 708 496 3100
Fax: +1 708 496 3105
Email: sales@senconinc.com

EUROPE • MIDDLE EAST • ASIA
Sencon (UK) Limited,
Unit P, Blackpole Trading Estate,
Worcester WR3 8SG. United Kingdom.
Telephone: +44 1905 755525
Fax: +44 1905 456393
Email: sales@sencon.co.uk

FRANCE - SPAIN
Parc Club Bât.21
1025, rue Henri Becquerel
34036 Montpellier, Cedex 01, France
Tél: +33 4 99 13 37 20
Fax: +33 4 99 13 37 21
Email: france@sencon.co.uk
spain@sencon.co.uk

WEBSITE www.sencon.net (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish) www.sencon.com for fast US access