

News & Views

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH CONTROL AND QUALITY SOLUTIONS FOR CANMAKING LINES



- 1976** Sencon Inc. founded in Chicago, USA
Capacitive and inductive sensors developed for DWI can handling systems
- 1978** Tooling protection systems added, including metal discrimination technology
- 1979** Spray control systems added
- 1983** Sencon Inc. expands into 50,000 ft² (4645m²) facility in Bedford Park, Illinois
- 1987** Sencon (UK) Ltd. Founded in Worcester, England to service European, African, Middle Eastern and Asian markets
- 1989** Quality Control instruments added
- 1992** Light testing systems and automated QC systems added
- 1996** Sencon Europe Ltd. founded to focus on solutions for 3pc canmaking
Sencon develops product range for end manufacturers
- 1998** Vision Systems added to the product range
- 2001** Regional sales office opens in Montpellier, France, serving French, Spanish and German markets
- 2004** Products for end metrology added
- 2006** All Sencon sensors re-engineered
Sencon continues to upgrade its wide range of coating control, measurement and in-process inspection products

Light Testing For Leakers; Now For Food Ends

ELTP, Sencon's highly successful system for checking beverage ends for leaks is now being used by prominent food end manufacturers. Presses that use belt-pocket transfer to make round EOE food ends up to size 307 can now benefit from the 100% product inspection provided by ELTP.

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All-In-One Margin Inspection

Weld margins on coated sheets not only need to be placed correctly, they must also be straight and sharp edged, consistent in width and clean from splashes and other contamination. Any of these faults can cause stoppages at the welder or poor welds which will affect product quality. The SC600 Plain Margin Inspector provides a powerful, all-in-one solution to these issues.

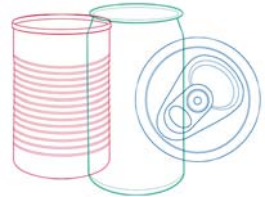
▶ PAGE 3



Enamel Rater Upgrade Enhances Data Control

In response to customer feedback, enhancements to Sencon's popular Semi-Automatic Enamel Rater make data collection and output even more flexible and convenient in the working environment.

▶ PAGE 3



What's Going On Inside Your Ovens?

Obtaining a good coating cure depends on achieving the right temperature profile across all the burner zones inside a curing oven. Realistic quality assurance and batch traceability is only possible when you have regular access to comprehensive data about the performance of your ovens. This is easily achieved with Sencon's compact oven logger, which can be sent through both wicket and sidestripe ovens without stopping the line.

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PLUS
Sencon at Cannex 2006
New Products Roundup

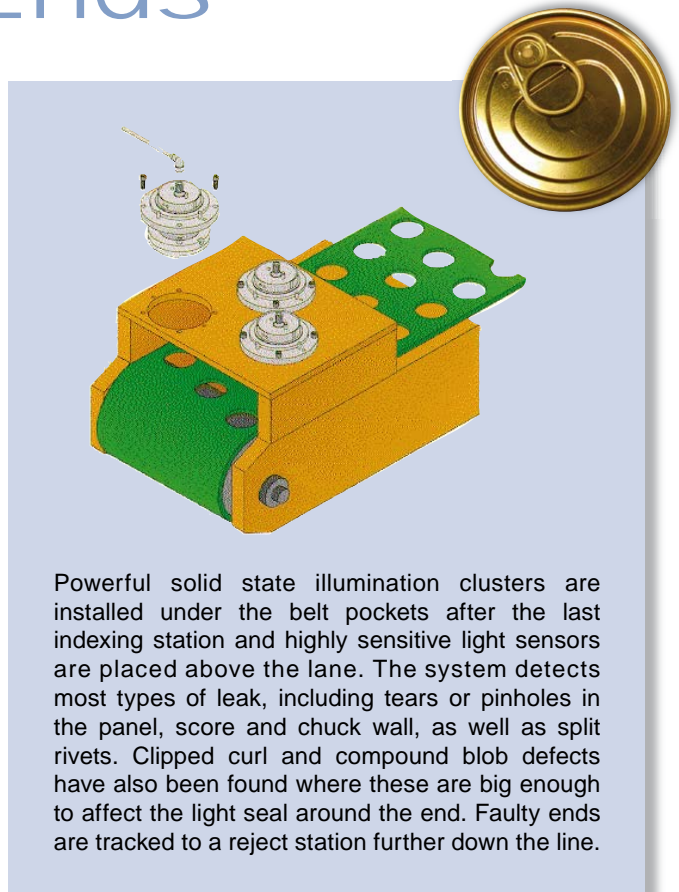


Light Testing For Leakers: Now For Food Ends

Using in-process light testing to check for leakers is increasingly regarded as essential for end manufacturer's in today's demanding market. Sencon's ELTP (End Light Tester Package) was originally developed for beverage ends and has rapidly become the global market leader for this application. All beverage end conversion presses in the US, for example, carry ELTP as a first line of defence against supplying defective product.

The system has now been adapted for use with some types of food end. The greater variation in the tooling and design of food end conversion presses can present particular challenges, but any press that makes round easy-open ends up to 307 in size, using belt transfer, can be considered for ELTP installation. It has already been installed on 40 lanes of this specification worldwide.

Experience has shown that ELTP, which checks 100% of production on the press, not only increases product quality and reduces customer complaint, but significantly reduces spoilage, as it provides instant feedback about any problems with the press, allowing prompt intervention.



Powerful solid state illumination clusters are installed under the belt pockets after the last indexing station and highly sensitive light sensors are placed above the lane. The system detects most types of leak, including tears or pinholes in the panel, score and chuck wall, as well as split rivets. Clipped curl and compound blob defects have also been found where these are big enough to affect the light seal around the end. Faulty ends are tracked to a reject station further down the line.



www.sencon.com/end-make/endtest.html

For more information on this product
tick the box on the reply sheet

ELTP

SENCON 30 Years On ...



Throughout 2006 Sencon is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the company's foundation. The canmaking industry has grown and changed dramatically in that time and Sencon has grown with it. 30 years on, the latest generation of Sencon sensors and controllers are still the best on the market for canmaking applications. Sencon products now include dedicated solutions to a wide range of quality assurance and process control issues, and they are constantly being updated to meet the latest developments in metal packaging design.



3-pc welded bevcans from 1976 Extruded bottle-cans in 2006

Sencon's dedicated canline sensors support the new generation of DWI canmaking lines

Sencon make a bottle-can stand for the Semi-Automatic Enamel Rater for coating porosity testing

All-in-One Margin Inspection



Sencon's Plain Margin Inspector (SC600)

Clean, precise and well placed weld margins are essential for weld quality. In fact, any process improvements made at the welder are pointless if coating margins are poor when they arrive.

Sometimes lacquer may splash into the margins during coating, or they can become contaminated with grease spots and dirt. Even well placed coating will sometimes bleed at the edges, causing feathering of the margin. All of these problems undermine weld quality. Margins that vary in width across a sheet, as



quickly detects all kinds of weld margin defects

well as ones that are misplaced or misaligned will also cause weld-wire breaks and stoppages.

Ideally these issues should be detected as early as possible, so that bad sheets can be eliminated from the process and appropriate adjustments made at the coater. There are a number of systems which monitor margin placement and alignment (such as Sencon's SC4xxx systems), but the most efficient solution would be to check for all margin quality issues at the same time. The Plain Margin Inspector (SC600) uses high



Typical weld margin contamination



speed optical scanning to assess weld margins in detail, from edge to edge of the margin and across an entire sheet as it comes off the coater.

The system immediately detects contamination, splashing or feathering, inconsistencies in the width of the margin, as well as misalignment or misplacement. The SC600 therefore acts as a single, multi-tasking quality assurance, product protection and process improvement tool.



www.sencon.com/litho/plain.htm

For more information on this system tick the box on the reply sheet

SC600 Plain Margin Inspector

Enamel Rater Upgrade Enhances Data Control

The coating porosity test is only useful for quality assurance if you can rely on the results obtained. Using a good quality enamel rater is obviously important, but other factors can also affect the reliability of test results. For example, if an operator sees a high mA reading on screen during the 4 second test cycle, they might be tempted to switch to another sample before the 'bad' result is registered. This is why the latest version of the software for Sencon's



Semi-Automatic Enamel Rater (SI9100) allows supervisors to switch off the screen display until a reading is complete, making sure that all sampling results are reliable. In addition, to ensure maximum compatibility with in-house software packages, the gauge's overload value can now be set to any nominated figure. These improvements, together with its other self-test and fail-safe features, mean that the SI9100 remains a highly efficient and practical gauge with excellent reliability.

For more information on this system tick the box on the reply sheet

SI9100 Semi-Automatic Enamel Rater

www.sencon.com/systems/enamel.html



What's Going On Inside Your Ovens?

Successfully curing lacquer inside a wicket oven requires gradually raising the product to the target temperature and then maintaining that temperature for a precise period of time. This relies on the efficient working of the burners in each zone in sequence.

Temperature strips attached to product as it goes through the oven will only indicate that the target temperature has been reached at some point in the oven. This could mask critical variations which create curing problems that go unnoticed until it's too late.

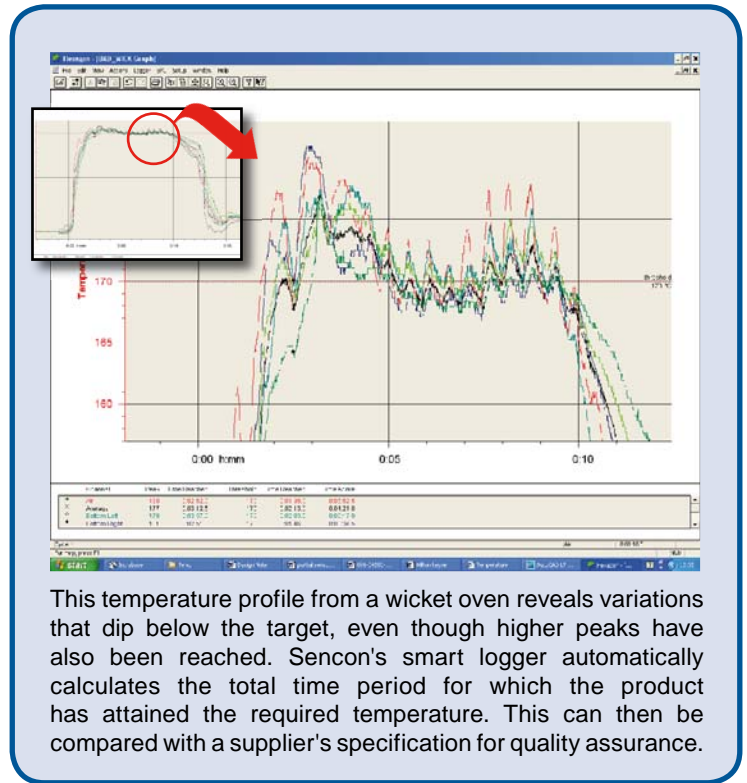
Sencon's compact Smart Logger is easily attached to a cut sheet using the SmartSheet™ system, and can be sent through the wicket oven without stopping the line. It can just as easily be put inside a can body and sent through the sidestripe oven at line speed using the SmartSeam™ system.

ARE YOU WASTING MONEY?

Without accurate information about the temperature profile inside a curing oven, you may not know that it is running inefficiently and wasting energy. With world gas prices rising rapidly, this could be expensive! However, with the complete temperature profile produced by a logger, you can adjust an oven's running temperature much more closely to the ideal without risking under cure and so save energy costs. Regular oven logging also promotes batch traceability, while helping to maintain product quality at all times.



www.sencon.com/litho/wicket.html



This temperature profile from a wicket oven reveals variations that dip below the target, even though higher peaks have also been reached. Sencon's smart logger automatically calculates the total time period for which the product has attained the required temperature. This can then be compared with a supplier's specification for quality assurance.

For more information on this product tick the box on the reply sheet

SL2300 SmartSheet™ System
SL2400 SmartSeam™ System
SL2900 Combined System



Canmaker magazine describe Cannex as "a quality meeting place for the canmaking community around the world". Sencon will be there again this year in Singapore, displaying a range of quality and control solutions. Please come and find us on **Stand 164**, next to the Gold Lounge, where the Sencon team will be happy to demonstrate our products and discuss your needs.

New Products Roundup



After 30 years, Sencon is still providing new solutions for the changing needs of the industry. Our latest products include systems for detecting translation and mis-registration of sheets at the coater (SC430, SC450); a sensor for detecting can bodies that are welded inside out (SC620); a sensor that detects the presence of lacquer on cut sheets at line speed (SC640). Other new ideas and upgrades are also in development. As always, these are driven by customer demand and the pursuit of cost effective excellence for canmakers.

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