

CELEBRATING
1922
2012
YEARS

Yamato

PUTTING WEIGHT BEHIND YOUR SUCCESS

Tea and Coffee - Ahmad Tea

Customer's motivation for investment

Ahmad Tea is a UK-based family business, drawing on three generations of tea blending and tasting experience. The company approached Yamato with the requirements of increasing the speed and accuracy of their production lines, whilst still maintaining the high quality of the final product. Ahmad Tea produces a number of blended tea products which consist of numerous teas and flavourings and therefore the ability to undertake quick and easy product changeovers was also required.

Challenges identified

As tea is a low weight, high volume product, dust egress posed a significant problem.

For several blended tea products, the production process involves complex additions of particulates and herbal mixes; it is vital that these are precisely measured in order to provide the high quality beverage which is synonymous with the Ahmad Tea brand. The customer also wished to reduce cases of deblending, whereby leaves of varying sizes are affected differently by the strength of vibrations involved in the packaging process. When deblending occurs, smaller particles tend to become separated from the rest of the blend under high vibrations and their absence can alter the final quality of the product.

Yamato's solution

Two Sigma and three Alpha multihead weighers, which are known for their precision, accuracy and efficiency, were installed at the company's factory situated in the Middle East. The machines included an extremely diverse series of presets ideally suited to tea production, as well as several Auto Setup features providing the customer with the ability to implement quick and easy product changeovers. Bespoke dust enclosures were also supplied in order to ensure dust egress was eliminated and a good working environment was maintained at all times.

Benefits to the customer

Ahmad Tea found that deblending cannot be eliminated altogether, however, they have stabilised this to a level of insignificance. By utilising the Auto Setup feature present on the Yamato machines provided. This allowed a high degree of customisation, enabling the customer to easily modulate the machine vibrations so as not to disrupt the delicate blends required.

The bespoke dust extraction features also prevented cross contamination of products, ensuring that products produced are of a high standard and quality. Dust, the most prevalent problem when packing a low weight, high volume product such as tea, was also significantly reduced.

The customer was able to significantly increase production outputs, achieving a consistent run rate of 75wpm on 100 gram packages as well as at least 45wpm on larger 500 gram packages. With the Sigma weigher Ahmad has the potential to achieve up to 95wpm on smaller (40 gram) products.

After Sales

Yamato provided an on-site in depth training course for the technicians and operators of the factory in order to ensure optimum efficiency, accuracy and speed was achieved and maintained. Ahmad Tea and Yamato will continue to work together to address run ability issues within the continuous improvement framework of the factory.

Industry

Tea and Coffee



Testimonial

"Yamato supplies top tier multihead weighers, capable of great accuracy, efficiency and speed. We pack a diverse range of teas at Ahmad, spending a great deal of time ensuring our products are of the highest quality in terms of their flavour, aroma, colour, strength and consistency. It is therefore essential that nothing is lost in the packaging process – it plays a far more important role than just ensuring the finished product looks right and is accurately weighed. The packaging process has a direct impact on the products final quality having a trusted partner (like Yamato) to assist with the fine tuning of a high throughput process is essential to maintain our commercial advantage."

Roy McFarlane
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