



Case Study

MAILWAY PACKAGING SOLUTIONS CLEANS UP WITH THE HELP OF LOMA SYSTEMS

Greater accuracy and increased peace of mind were the main reasons why a packing services specialist specified checkweighers for its new cleaning solution line. Mailway Packaging Solutions, based in Bradford and Skelmersdale, selected two Loma Systems AS1200 checkweighers to meet the need for error-free operation.

Mailway's customers are fmcg manufacturers who in turn supply their products to retailers and wholesalers. As a leading figure in packing solutions Mailway needed checkweighers that it could rely upon to perform accurately yet quickly. Mailway's objective over the next 2-3 years is to develop key strategic project management operations with customers. This means sourcing and operating the best and most suitable equipment for a job, to ensure customer quality specifications are adhered to and products are packed and assembled on time. Loma's AS1200 checkweighers will act as a Quality Assurance device and bring greater efficiency and accuracy to the packing process.

As a packer of everyday consumer goods, with its clients' reputations in its hands, Mailway was aware of the importance of integrating checkweighing into the production line.

"A mistake on our part manifests itself as a complaint from a client's customers. It is therefore essential that our production assembly is accurate, and that the correct number of components are put into each pack. This is particularly important for high profile product launches and promotions where the cost of mistakes could cause considerable damage to a brand's reputation before it is even established," commented Louise Elkington, marketing manager at Mailway.

The AS1200 checkweighers examine packs of cleaning solution and ensure that they contain the correct number of components. The process at Mailway involves a board container being formed and four pouches packed into the container. This is then weighed to ensure the right number have been inserted and that they have not dried out (dry pouches weigh less). Seven more components are added to the container, then the pack is weighed before tamper seals are applied. The solution is packed into a cardboard tub and is distributed in two different sizes. The checkweighers are able to differentiate between variations in packaging.



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Mailway installed the Loma AS1200 checkweighers in January 2000 after an initial trial period. According to Ms Elkington, "We were looking for a company we could rely upon and with a first class reputation. The checkweighers play a crucial role in our quality procedure and replace the need for manual checking of the packs, which was not a viable possibility in terms of manpower or costs. The Loma checkweighers fitted our requirements perfectly and offered the best value for money."

Approximately 50 packs per minute are checked on the production line which is in operation eight hours a day, five days a week. This equates to 24,000 packs per day and over 6m packs yearly for a single checkweigher.

The Loma AS1200 checks to within $\pm 2g$. When a pack occasionally fails to conform to these parameters, it is automatically rejected.

"We are very pleased with the accuracy of the AS1200 checkweighers and they have certainly met expectations. The AS1200 will play an important part in our future development, as we streamline factory processes and select machinery which is fast, accurate and reliable and unaffected by human error."
