



Case Study

ALLERGAN HAS AN EYE FOR LOMA CHECKWEIGHING EQUIPMENT

Speed, accuracy and reliability were the chief requirements for a County Mayo eye care specialist when specifying checkweighers for its contact lens solutions line. Allergan Pharmaceuticals, leading manufacturer and exporter of eye care products, selected a Loma Systems AS1200 checkweigher to meet the need for streamlined factory processes and error-free operation.

Allergan's customers are hospitals, supermarkets and pharmacists. As a leading brand in contact lens solutions and lens care products, Allergan products have a fast turnaround on retail shelves. Allergan's objective over the next 2-3 years is to satisfy customer needs by achieving more timely delivery of products. Loma's AS1200 checkweigher is expected to act as a Quality Assurance device and bring greater efficiency and accuracy to the manufacturing process.

As a manufacturer of everyday consumer goods, Allergan was aware that it was important to integrate checkweighing into the production line. Contact lens equipment is readily available and in everyday use by the customer, but it is also essential for the health of his or her eyes. Contact lens solutions vary greatly in chemical composition and suitability for different types of lenses, and it is vital that a box contains the correct quality and quantity and also an instruction leaflet to protect the customer.



The AS1200 checkweigher examines packs of contact lens care equipment or prescription eye care products and ensures that they contain the correct number of items. It adapts to the 30 different variations of packaging and size which Allergan's products are available in.

Allergan installed the Loma AS1200 checkweigher in August 1999. According to Mary McGing, production supervisor at Allergan, availability played an important part in selecting the AS1200: "We knew the Loma name was a good one, and had previously opted for Loma checkweighing equipment. Loma offered us good lead times for delivery of the checkweigher, which was needed for fast-turnaround of products."

Approximately 60 packs per minute are checked on the production line. The factory produces 24 hours a day, 5 days a week and at least 3 weeks a month. This equates to 5m tablets and 80m bottles yearly.

Previously Allergan depended entirely on human operators to ensure accuracy of product composition. Having been already packed & coded the carton is put through the checkweigher to

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ensure it contains the correct quantity of components. The Loma AS1200 checks to within + or - 1g. When a carton occasionally fails to conform to these parameters, it is checked manually and rejected if necessary.

Mary McGing commented on the selection of the AS1200: “When we chose the AS1200 we were already aware of our checkweighing requirements. We had one Loma checkweigher already in place, and had several Garvens weighers as well. We were looking for flexibility / efficiency; important given the range and volume of Allergan products, and efficiency; particularly important when it comes to eye care products that directly affect the health of the consumer.

“We are very pleased with the accuracy of the AS1200 checkweigher, and have no regrets. Our intention over the next 2-3 years is to improve our distribution and delivery processes to cope with increased demand. The AS1200 will play an important part in achieving this objective, as we streamline factory processes and select machinery which is fast, accurate, reliable and unaffected by human error.”
