



Case Study

TATE & LYLE CAN SMILE WITH LOMA

Loma's management information system with full Line Status Monitoring (LSM) feature has been installed at Tate & Lyle, the world's largest sugar refiner. It has been installed to monitor production in a new packaging facility at the company's Thames refinery.

The installation of Loma's management information system with LSM provides Tate & Lyle with an immediate overview of production and enables line efficiencies to be regulated and improved.

The unique Line Status Monitor feature enables Tate & Lyle to view the status of all the equipment on each of the five packaging lines through a central PC. On each line the filler, bagger, quality inspection equipment and sealer/wrappers are connected to the management information system which monitors output, stoppages and rejection rates. This provides Tate & Lyle with an at-a-glance real time overview of production efficiency, and the ability to identify trends or the source of any problems on a line.

Loma's management information system has a new icon driven format which ensures that information can be accessed quickly and easily. The icons - each one representing a piece of equipment - can be arranged on the screen to mimic the actual layout of equipment on the factory floor. In addition, where a number of lines produce the same product, a "Group Summary" icon can be created to total the results from a number of lines.

"We worked very closely with Loma's development department on the Line Status Monitor facility" comments Roger Hiscocks, packaging manager at Tate & Lyle. "The development of this facility has enhanced our production line monitoring enormously. It enables us to spot trends which give us warning of problems with a piece of equipment or monitor shift output patterns.

In several instances it has enabled us to watch trends on the packaging line and take preventative action prior to a potential problem being incurred. We can now ensure that our packaging lines are running at optimum efficiency."

Loma checkweighing and metal detection equipment has also been installed in each of the five new lines. Two Loma 7000 Combos are being used to check retail size bags of different sugars, including granulated and demerara. Situated after the bagger on two lines, the Loma Combo is servo-linked to the filler. If the Combo notices a trend of heavier or lighter bags it automatically feeds back instructions to the filler to adjust the filling levels accordingly.

On the three new sachet packaging lines, Tate & Lyle has installed three Loma 6000 checkweighers and three Loma Superscan Mico ISC metal detectors. Flexibility and sensitivity was a key requirement on these lines.



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For maximum sensitivity Tate & Lyle required a metal detector that would fit onto the outfeed of the sachet machine and check individual sachets before they are boxed into catering packs. However, with limited space available on the outfeed of the sachet machine, the metal detector needed to be separated from its control panel. For ease of operation, the control panel is situated next to the Loma 6000 checkweigher which checks boxes of sachets further down the line.
