



X-RAY HELPS LEADING MEAT PROCESSOR TO STRIKE THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN FOOD SAFETY AND PRODUCT INTEGRITY

Kepak Group is a family-owned Irish company, enjoying a strong reputation for sustainable food production. The group processes a broad range of fresh and value added meat products, serving the international foodservice and retail markets with prime cuts of meat, on-trend foodservice solutions and market leading consumer brands.

Kepak's portfolio of market leading brands include Rustlers, Big Al's, Feasters, Stript Snacks, and Celtic Beef. Kepak employs over 4,500 people across 12 manufacturing facilities throughout Ireland and the UK, and has sales offices in Europe, the US, Asia and Africa.

The Challenge - do more in the same space

In addition to providing a foodservice offering, Kepak's Kirkham-UK site mainly manufactures a range of Microwavable Burgers and Hot Sandwiches that come in clear 100% recyclable packs, with additions such as cheese and sauce. Kepak Kirkham produces Rustlers – a Top 100 Brand in the UK and Europe's No.1 brand of micro snacks. With the brand built around taste, convenience and quality, operating to world class food safety standards is a major area of focus. This focus results in the site consistently achieving the highest grades in food safety and quality audits.

All of the site's 8 processing lines used an ageing mix of metal detectors and checkweighers, which were not suitable to detect softer contaminants such as bones, as well as ensuring that a sauce sachet and cheese slice were correctly placed in the packs. Kepak wanted to increase their detection capabilities, but also continue to weigh their products and check product integrity, all within a smaller footprint.



Pictured: Loma's X5 Space Saver

The Opportunity

Due to the complexities presented by the final 'on-the-go' burger product, it was decided that each line should have a new X-ray machine, to provide best-in-class metal contaminant detection and an equally impressive capability for detecting softer contaminants such as bone, ceramic and glass. In addition X-ray would check the product's integrity, plus product weight and volume to a 3g tolerance. The X-ray solution also needed to deliver a line throughput of 100 packs/minute to meet production requirements.

Following extensive consultation, Loma was appointed to supply the Kirkham site with 8 of their market-leading, compact X5 Space Saver X-ray units, offering detection of various contaminants and enabling easy line integration.

The Solution - X-ray to the rescue

Loma installed 8 X5 Space Saver X-ray units into Kepak's production lines. In providing first-class CCP protection in a modest footprint, they successfully met Kepak's exacting quality requirements for contaminant and product integrity checks.

"We had very high expectations of Loma's X-ray machines which, given the nature of our product types, needed some detailed scoping to get the equipment to function perfectly. Once that had been achieved, we were delighted with the end result. During installation, Loma's technical team were passionate in ensuring that the X-rays were performing at their best - to that end I can't be happier. I have 100% confidence in Loma's X-ray technology."



Lee Arkinstall
Project & Improvement Manager
Food Division, Kepak

LOMA Solution

- X5 Space Saver X-ray units.
- Checks for contaminants and product integrity.
- Air-blast reject.

"You cannot fault Loma's commitment and passion to provide the very best solution."



Pictured: The Loma X5 Space Saver

Kepak's Experience of the X5 Space Saver

Design Benefits:

- Provides the very best detection levels – 0.4mm for very small metal contaminants and 0.8mm to 1.6mm to find softer contaminants.
- First-class CCP protection in the smallest footprint, with line length of just 1000mm.
- Built for 24/7 operation.
- Perfect for products up to 180mm in height.
- Ability to easily switch products via the machine's set-up wizard.
- Network connectivity for remote product change over and network data sharing.

Production Benefits:

- Upgrading from metal detection to X-ray means Kepak can now detect more contaminants.
- Achieves a throughput of 100 packs/min.
- X-ray meets stringent quality and Code of Practice requirements.
- Pack component integrity checks ensure product weight and volume down to a 3g tolerance.

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Metal Detection | Checkweighing | X-Ray Inspection

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