

New Generation Level Filler

The industry demand for entry level fillers in the dairy and beverage industry has evolved and Filmatic has responded by offering an upgraded machine. The result is a cost effective, production friendly workhorse suitable for filling dairy, water, juice and other still beverages in 250 ml - 2 litre containers.



Machine Features:

- "Quick change" change parts
- Minimum moving parts
- Versatile bottle handling
- Variable speed control
- Stainless steel and non-ferrous material construction
- Designed and manufactured to 3A and EHEDG standards

Customer Benefits:

- Minimum downtime
- Low maintenance
- Uncomplicated operation
- Benchmark quality and durability
- High standard of CIP and hygiene can be achieved

Take 5 takes Filmatic

The family run operation, Take 5 Fruit Juices/ Madu Mague, recently commissioned Filmatic to install four plastic pouch filling machines at their Vereeniging operation.

The machines are vertical single lane type and form, fill and seal the sachets on an inline principle. They are manufactured entirely from stainless steel and non-ferrous metals and were custom-built and tested at the Filmatic plant to conform to Take 5's specifications for filling fruit juice in 250 to 1000 ml sachets.

The dosing of the juice is performed by a continuous flow system controlled by an adjustable angle valve. The high precision of this dosing system enables a very accurate package weight.



The machine performs the following automatic and synchronised operations: pouch forming from a reel of polyethylene film, downward traction of the film, expiry date hot foil coding of the sachets (optional), vertical heat sealing to form a polyethylene tube, filling of the juice, heat sealing of the lower and upper part of the pouches and discharges of the pouches.

The machine can handle polyethylene film of 320 mm width and film thickness of 0.090 mm, + 0.05. The filling volume is adjustable from 200 ml up to 1340 ml and can obtain speeds of up to 2 200 sachets per hour on products such as Water, milk, drinking yoghurt, juice, RTD cordials, cream, etc. Alternative volumes can be accommodated on request.

ISO Upgrade

As South Africa's leading liquid packaging manufacturer and exporter, Filmatic Packaging Systems, has been accredited with the prestigious ISO 9001: 2000 listing.

"In 2001 we received the ISO 9001 listing and over the past two years we have invested extensively in upgrading our systems to conform to the requirements of the International Standards Organisation. We also assigned a multi-functional team to drive the programme upgrade. In September this year we were re-assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of SABS ISO 9001: 2000," say Leon Cilliers the Financial Executive.

"With the company exporting to more than 35 countries in Africa, Europe, the Far East, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and the Americas and with food safety being important for the modern consumer we constantly strive to achieve the highest manufacturing standards," adds Martin Raubenheimer, the company's Marketing

Executive. "The ISO 9001: 2000 accreditation ensures that our equipment is produced according to world class standards and provides our customers a high level of confidence in these products."

In addition to the ISO 9001:2000 listing Filmatic also conforms to the American 3A and European EHEDG standards.



Unscrambling pharmaceuticals

Filmatic Packaging Systems was recently commissioned by L'Oreal Carson subsidiary to design and build two plastic bottle unscramblers for its Midrand plant.

The fully automated Silent Wave Rotary Plastic Bottle Unscrambler URB/12/SI handles a large variety of bottle types and sizes, with a 320-litre bottle hopper that requires filling only every 12 minutes when the machine is running at a speed of 130 bottles per minute. At Carson, the machines will run at a speed of 7 800 bottles per hour, unscrambling 50ml roll-on containers.

Accessed via a removable change-part door, the unscrambler's change-parts are designed for quick changeovers, allowing the operator to make quick adjustments for different bottle sizes.

Bottles are fed into the unscrambler by a bottle hopper and elevator. Designed to operate at an angle, the machine allows bottles to accumulate in the bowl. They are then moved into custom-designed selector pieces by the fixed disc. A chute guides the bottles

into the upright position and transfers them to the discharge vacuum conveyor, which is equipped with a vacuum fan to stabilise the bottles as they move down the line. This gentle process prevents bottle damage.



The machine is also equipped with a pneumatic reject system to remove bottles from the discharge conveyor should they not exit in an upright position. A mechanical slip clutch prevents the machine from being damaged if a serious bottle jam occurs. Sensors on the discharge side of the unscrambler ensure that the downstream filling machines are continuously supplied with bottles. The machine speed

can be electronically adjusted.

Safety features include permanently fitted Perspex access covers on the machine base that prevent inadvertent entry into hazardous areas on the machine. Safety access doors are fitted around the bowl area. As all rotating or moving components are enclosed, the machine operates at a noise level of less than 80 decibels.

Weigh Filler boosts SC Johnsons line efficiency

SC Johnsons plant in Rosslyn was recently upgraded with the commissioning of a Filmatic weigh filler on one of its liquid lines.

The weigh filler features load-cell technology that makes it considerably more accurate than the older rotary piston filler it replaced.

According to Moira Poole, production manager of SC Johnson, the decision to purchase a South African-made was relatively easy. "We considered both imported and local options and the Filmatic compared well in terms of performance and particularly in terms of cost", says Poole. "In addition, the load-cell technology ensures an accurate fill, preventing overflow and so reducing production costs." This accuracy allows a return on this multi-million-Rand capital investment within two years.

What's more, the machine clip-on/ clip-out parts mean that changeovers are tool-free and thus far faster than before. "Filmatic has guaranteed us a maximum 20-minute downtime for a size and bottle changeover," notes maintenance manager, Hennie Prinsloo, who's responsible for ensuring that the line

runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible. The filler has 18 non-contact filling valves actuated pneumatically, as well as a 'no bottle, no fill' function.

All containers are weigh checked before and after filling. Electronic self-adjustment of filled weight for each filling station at every revolution of the carousel, controlled automatically via the PC, ensures a constant accurate net weight in each container.

The Filmatic cap unscrambler and feeder ensure even feeding of screw caps with the capping head providing a 'no bottle, no cap' facility. All settings and adjustments are effected on a touch screen panel;

and, as all settings can be saved and recalled, change over times are minimised.

The weigh filler also features a clean-in-place (CIP) system that helps maintain sanitation and cleanliness.

The line on which the filler is installed packs all of the SC Johnson's liquid products from 500ml to one litre, handling a number of different SKU's and five different bottle shapes. These products include household detergents such as Mr Muscle variants, as well as automotive products such as Rally detergents.

