

VISHANDEL KLOOSTER
SWITCHES TO BANDING

'Banding is faster and cheaper'



Thanks to the switch from a cardboard sleeve to a printed band from Specialist Printer Max. Aarts, Vishandel Klooster is able to save time, material, and storage space. 'A band is cheaper than a sleeve and banding with the Bandall machine is faster than applying a sleeve manually', says commercial director Jac Tijsen.

Vishandel Klooster specializes in smoking, processing and packaging eel, mackerel, salmon, herring, and trout. On a daily basis, various orders of packaged fish find their way to the retail market. Both under private label as well as under their own brand. The majority of the fish goes in a skin packaging. In addition, the company also packages its fish in MAP (Modified Atmosphere Packaging). 'We prefer skin packaging', says commercial director Jac Tijsen. 'The fish remains neat

in this packaging. With MAP packaging, the product slides and that often doesn't look very appealing. There is also a risk of breaking during the transport process. A fallen crate with 10 packages including 1.5 kg of fish can easily be worth 50 euros. Usually, it is possible to find out where it happened, so we pay for the costs. The costs for skin packs are slightly higher than for MAP packaging, but indirectly we are saving on complaints and therefore saving money.'

From sleeve to band

Processing smoked fish is a labour intensive process. After brining and smoking, the fish are filleted and packaged semi-automatically. Previously, cardboard sleeves were manually placed around the packaging. The sleeves were pre-glued and were delivered flat. After sleeving, the packaging was automatically labelled. 'The sleeving process can be automated, but the volumes at Klooster are too low for that', Tijsen explains. 'In the fish

industry, you are dealing with small batches. An automated sleeve does not pay off. It often concerns orders of 500 to 1,000 products. In that case, it is better to apply a cardboard sleeve by hand. With banding, this is different. The Bandall machine can be quickly adjusted to a different size, and we only use one band width. This means you do not need to change the size when banding a shorter or longer tray. And changing a roll is quick and easy.'

Several benefits

Banding offers Klooster a number of benefits. It saves space in the warehouse and in the workplace, as a roll with banding labels contains as many labels as dozens of boxes with sleeves. The difference in weight, and therefore in material, is also significant. One band weighs about 2 grams, while one sleeve weighs 25 grams. 'Another benefit of the band is that it is always applied in the right place and cannot move, Tijsen says. 'But the greatest

'A BAND ALSO HAS A LOGISTICAL ADVANTAGE'



The Bandall TRCS machine at Klooster is a double-headed version that can process a maximum speed 40 packages per minute.



On the left the old packaging with a cardboard sleeve. On the right, the new packaging with a printed band from Specialist Printer Max. Aarts.



Commercial Director Jac Tijsen: 'Banding is much faster than sliding sleeves around the packaging by hand. This is done at least twice as fast.'

With the innovative and sustainable packaging concept Banding by Banding®, Bandall and Specialist Printer Max. Aarts provide various environmentally friendly packaging solutions. Always focused on reducing packaging material and waste.



benefit is of course that automatic banding is much faster than sliding sleeves around the packaging by hand. It's at least twice as fast. This is necessary, as within our company, an investment is required to pay itself back within four to five years.' Furthermore, the bands supplied by Specialist Printer Max. Aarts are not sensitive to moisture.

The Bandall TRCS

The banding process is quick and easy. Operators place the packaged fish on a conveyor that feeds the fish trays to the Bandall TRCS machine. It is a modular machine concept that has one or several banding heads, depending on the required speed. Vishandel Klooster decided for a version with two heads that can process a maximum speed of 40 packages per minute. A pusher feeds the fish trays into the machine, and a second pusher puts the fish tray in the correct position. Then, the Bandall machine wraps the band around

the packaging, pulls it tight, seals the band, and cuts the film from the roll. Then the pusher moves the tray on the discharge conveyor.

Beautiful brand appearance

The printed band contains the required product information and ensures a beautiful brand appearance. The paper label that is later applied, contains the nutritional values, ingredients and best before date. This information could also be applied while banding with the thermo transfer printer on the Bandall machine, Tijsen explains. 'We currently add the product information later. Firstly, because in that case we require to change the band less often and secondly because we have to freeze the first for some customers. Frozen packaging is more difficult to band because it is slippery, so we first provide them with a band and label the packaging later, before it is shipped.' Looking back on the switch from sleeve to band, Jac Tijsen is very satisfied with the packaging

and the machine. 'We are saving a lot of time in the workplace and after installing the Bandall machine we have had no problems. It was simply a case of plugging in and getting started!'

This article was created in collaboration with Specialist Printer Max. Aarts and Bandall.