



Mantisco Systems, Inc.

Unattended Scanning Systems Perform Traditional Bar Code Verification On Packaging Lines

"Nothing Is Better Than a High Speed Packaging Line For Duplicating Errors."

General Description

In high speed packaging operations, 100% in-line verification of bar codes has become an essential component of good manufacturing practices. Not only must bar codes be machine readable, they must be correct for the item. After all, a packaging line is the most critical point for bar code inspections. This is where manufacturers can take the last qualitative look at the bar code before releasing product into distribution channels.

The MANTIS in line verifier kit is designed to operate unattended in a high speed packaging environment. In operation, the MANTIS compares learned numeric values stored in memory to actual numeric data collected by Unattended Scanning Systems. Both laser scanners for linear bar codes (UPC) and Charged Couple Device (CCD) sensors for 2-D (RSS) transmit numeric values to the MANTIS operator Interface for verification.

Typical bar codes symbols include 1-D (UPC, EAN, Code 39, 2 of 5...) or 2-D (Data Matrix, RSS, QR, PDF-417, MaxiCode...).

When a good read \ good match occurs, the event is counted and no alarm is made. In the event of a no-read or no-match, the occurrence is counted and an audible, visual, contact closure alarm is made. The error event may also be transmitted to host systems via serial or network communications.

The Need

National Retailers expect that at the point of sale, UPC codes are machine readable and correct for the SKU. Heavy fines are assessed to manufacturers and distributors of product with poorly printed or incorrect bar codes. Between 1993 and 1997 one major retailer collected over \$27,000,000 in fines from suppliers. This dollar amount does not include other costs to manufacturers such as product liability, material cost, freight cost and lost customer good will.

More recently, in industries with packaging lines that affect public health, the FDA has enacted regulations which in part tighten packaging and labeling control requirements. This label verification and inspection includes reading both linear and 2-D bar codes on all components. Reference FDA 21 CFR Part 11.

The Solution

Mantis Operator Interface and unattended scanning systems verify 100% product labels are readable and correct. The system will detect and set alarms for the very first bar code that does not read or is incorrect for the packaging line. The complete kit is designed to operate as an integrated stand alone system that requires no PLC. The system operates out of the box and line side operators can operate the system with a few minutes of instruction. Operating a key switch for LEARN, RUN and RESET is all that is required of line side operators.

Solution Benefits

Return on investment for the Mantis Operator Interface 100% verification system is based upon:

Tangible:

- Reduced Product Waste
- Reduced Packaging Waste
- Reduced Machine Time
- Reduced Direct Labor Expense
- Eliminate return freight cost
- Eliminate label compliance liability (fines)

Intangible:

- Eliminate Supply Chain Trauma
- Improves Customer Good-Will
- Enables QC standard
- Promotes Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)





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