Hitachi Industrial Equipment

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

An automotive lubricant specialist depends on Hitachi Marking and Coding Solutions to keep their packaging operations running smooth.

SUMMARY

Warren Distribution, Inc. needed a date marking solution for its automotive lubricant packaging operation in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Over the course of several years, they've installed nine Hitachi industrial printers with the support of PALCO, their local Hitachi distributor. Since being deployed, the printers have proven themselves to be reliable and flexible to changing business needs.

Warren Distribution, Inc.

Since 1922, family-owned Warren Distribution, Inc. has been committed to understanding customer needs and exceeding expectations. From locations in Iowa, Alabama and West Virginia, they blend, package and distribute lubricants and chemicals for the automotive industry. Beyond producing for private label marketers, Warren makes a significant amount of product under their own house brands.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

To maintain its global supply chain, Warren counts on uptime from 1 0 production lines at its Council Bluffs site. Running up to 280 bottles per minute, reliability in each stage of production is critical. The lines include a date marking stage for each individual HDPE (High Density Polyurethane) bottle to meet traceability requirements. Beyond the demand for speed, the marking equipment must accommodate frequent color changes and a variety of container sizes, ranging from 4 ounces to 5 gallons. Plus, like other modern manufacturing environments, space is limited and variability in temperature and humidity must be expected.

> "We had tried wax-based printers, which were large and cumbersome. Dot matrix printers wouldn't handle the line speed."
>
> – Greg Lightner, line technican, Warren Distribution, Inc.

Hitachi Industrial Equipment

SOLUTION

Warren worked with the experts at PALCO Industrial Marking and Labeling, their local Hitachi distributor. In the consultation stage, PALCO reviewed the unique elements of Warren's product marketing requirements and laid out several options. The Warren/PALCO team has since successfully commissioned nine Hitachi industrial inkjet printers, with model series including the PXR, RX, RX2 and UX.

RESULTS

The Hitachi printer's code system has reduced set-up time to less than 30 seconds, helping meet Warren's product variability challenges for color and product size. Operation is user friendly, keeping training time for new operators at a minimum. And the small size of the printers has freed up space for other operations in the bottling process. Reliability and clarity in printing has not been affected by fluctuating temperature and humidity conditions in the production environment. PALCO service technicians are on standby for responsive, same-day support.

> "I don't worry when I come in, 'Is the printer going to work today?' It's the furthest thing from my mind."
>
> – Greg Lightner, line technican, Warren Distribution, Inc.

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

For more information visit us at:
www.hitachi-america.us/ice/inkjetprinters

Tony Lasauskas
PALCO Industrial Marking and Labeling, Inc.
11490 South 153rd St
Omaha, NE 68138
402.556.7000
custserv@palcosys.com

Marking & Coding Solutions
Hitachi America, Ltd.
6901 Northpark Blvd. Charlotte NC 28216
1-866-583-0048
inkjetprinters@hal.hitachi.com

Hitachi Industrial Equipment

BLOWERS | CONTINUOUS INKJET PRINTERS | INVERTERS

Hitachi America, Ltd.

© Hitachi America, Ltd. 2018. All Rights Reserved. HITACHI is a trademark or registered trademark of Hitachi, Ltd.
All other trademarks, service marks and company names are properties of their respective owners.