

New SPX Butter Unwrapper - providing additional protection to the workforce

May 2014 – Butter typically arrives into a processing facility boxed and wrapped in around 25kg units. Before any reworking, melting or other downstream processes can be carried out it needs to be de-boxed and unwrapped. Once de-boxed, which tends to take place outside of the processing area to avoid dust from the cardboard, the new SPX Butter Unwrapper machine takes away the manual lifting associated with removing the plastic covering around the large blocks of butter. Removing the need for manual lifting protects operators from injury, ensures compliance with local health and safety regulations, and simplifies operational procedures as operators do not need to changeover to avoid exceeding daily maximum load lifts.

Simplifying compliance with regulatory requirements

Typical regulations define a heavy lift as handling a load where it is required to completely or partially leave the work surface. A burden below 3 kg is not deemed a heavy lift but, if repetitive, is monotonous work and this is also a consideration as it may cause repetitive strain-type injuries. Dependent upon working conditions, the maximum total load a person must lift during a day varies from around 3 metric tons to 10 metric tons.

SPX has developed the new Butter Unwrapper machine to remove logistical issues surrounding this process, simplify operating procedures and decrease the risk of injury for personnel. The machine is unique in how it handles the unwrapping process and offers real benefit and peace of mind to food processors. Designed and ideal for use with the butter bulks entering a processing line, the system can also be utilised for a multitude of other heavy packaged products.

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Efficient, reliable operation

The machine is controlled using a PLC with an intuitive touchscreen operator interface. Its ergonomic design ensures easy installation without need for additional platforms or seating. Conveniently placed panels with pushbuttons further enable safe and efficient operation of the system.

The de-boxed butter is received into the Butter Unwrapper on an inlet conveyor belt. A table, operated by air, turns and manipulates the block of butter to enable the operator to unwrap it without lifting. Unwrapped butter then leaves the machine on another conveyor belt which is connected to the required downstream processes. The machine incorporates sensors to monitor the position of the butter bulks and communications to interface with upstream and downstream equipment.

The system is deliberately not fully automated as this adds real benefit to the overall process. An operator can ensure that no remnants of plastic remain when unwrapping the butter that could potentially pass through to subsequent processes. It also enables the initial visual inspection of the butter entering the overall process to ensure there are no obvious quality issues. Assisting the operator and fulfilling the longstanding demand to remove risk to personal injury, the machine is also not over-complicated which assures easy operation and increased reliability.

The new SPX Butter Unwrapper will be showcased at Interpack and has already been well received by major dairies. It is an elegant solution to an age-old problem and offers innovation through its simplicity and well-engineered design.



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About SPX:

Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, SPX Corporation (NYSE: SPW) is a global Fortune 500 multi-industry manufacturing leader with approximately \$5 billion in annual revenue, operations in more than 35 countries and over 14,000 employees. The company's highly-specialized, engineered products and technologies are concentrated in Flow Technology and energy infrastructure. Many of SPX's innovative solutions are playing a role in helping to meet rising global demand for electricity and processed foods and beverages, particularly in emerging markets. The company's products include food processing systems for the food and beverage industry, critical Flow components for oil and gas processing, power transformers for utility companies, and cooling systems for power plants. For more information, please visit www.spx.com.

CONTACT DETAILS

Irene Constantin

Marketing Communications Manager - EMEA

irene.constantin@spx.com

Tel +45 8922 8326

www.spx.com

PHOTOS:



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