



Case Study

LOMA COMPLETES THE PACKAGE FOR SOUFFLET ALIMENTAIRE

French food packer Soufflet Alimentaire has recently installed six Loma 7000 Combo integrated checkweighing and metal detection systems as part of an ongoing policy of commitment to quality inspection.

Based in Valenciennes, France, Soufflet Alimentaire is one of Europe's largest dried food packers. The company's portfolio comprises over 800 named products, including rice, cereal, dried pet foods, tapioca, semolina, baby food and dried vegetables, which are supplied to key retail, catering and industrial customers throughout Europe.

Soufflet Alimentaire regards quality inspection as paramount to its continuing success; every packet and bag of produce is quality checked before distribution. The company's customers - particularly those in sensitive markets such as baby food - are also demanding a supplier with reliable and reputable quality control equipment.

"We need to be able to rely on our metal detection and checkweighing equipment," says Monsieur J.M Dath, Industrial Director. "Loma can offer us reliability from a well known and respected brand of metal detectors and weighing machines."

Like food manufacturers across Europe, Soufflet Alimentaire is placing an increasing emphasis on HACCP, and its installation of quality control systems runs in line with this. " Loma systems mean we are in control of the critical points on our production lines," says M. Dath. "We know we will detect any metal and can offer our customers high quality products."



The six Loma 7000 Combo machines are installed on new dedicated production lines, and form part of an extensive refurbishment of the production area. After wrapping, the packs are checked by the Combo. They are detected for both ferrous and non ferrous metals, then pass onto the checkweigher, where they must meet the pre-programmed weight. The checkweighing facilities of Loma's 7000 Combo have already enabled Soufflet Alimentaire to comply with weights and measures regulations.

Rejects for metal detection and weight control are collected in separate reject bins on the production lines, so analysis of the fault can be undertaken. After checking, product is collected on pallets ready for distribution.

The Loma equipment is in use at Soufflet Alimentaire for up to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and handles a range of packs from 125g to 10kg. Loma equipment makes life easy for operators at Soufflet Alimentaire. The 7000 Combo is pre-programmed, meaning the operator simply has to

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enter a program number for each product. Installing Loma equipment has meant existing machinery and manual working practices have gradually been replaced, resulting in more effective and faster working procedures. "We have been able to automate our production processes and can now intervene quickly where metal is detected," says Monsieur Dath. "We can have absolute confidence in the integrity of our products, whilst maintaining optimum rates of production".
