



Case Study

BRACH AND BROCH CONFECTIONS CHOOSE LOMA SYSTEMS CHECKWEIGHERS

When Brach and Brock Confections, the giant, Chattanooga, Tennessee-based candy maker, replaced manual case packing with a robotic pick-and-place machine on the packaging line for fragile products at their sprawling, 2.2 million square foot Chicago plant, they selected a Loma Systems Model 6000 checkweigher to complete the automation process. Line automation saved more than \$150,000 per year in line labour costs; increased productivity and the elimination of product give-aways added substantially to those savings.

Line E- 1 2 at the Chicago plant bags nearly five million pounds of chocolate coated peanut clusters and chocolate stars per year. Both products and packages are mixed: the company packs 7 and 12 ounce bags of clusters; 7, 14 and 15.4 ounce bags of stars. Both products tend to break easily, so gentle handling during packing is a must. Until mid- 1996, operators manually packed twelve bags to the corrugated case. But when new pick and place robotic technology proved it could handle the fragile product, Brach and Brock proceeded with the automation process.



One problem still remained to be solved: packers had handled pack count for every case visually, and a method had to be developed to prevent give-away of the high ingredient cost products. The answer: a Loma Systems Model 6000 checkweigher. The Model 6000 "counts" by weight after the cases have been taped shut. One bag too many or too few triggers a pusher bar eject system. The company feels that the combination of more consistent accuracy and system flexibility (line changeover is accomplished in less than 30 minutes and the parameters on the Loma Systems unit can be changed in less than two minutes) when added to the \$150,000 in labour savings substantially increase system benefits.

Loma Case Study
