

Autobag[®] Increases Flexibility and Makes Savings for JBS, with a Payback of Less Than 6 Months



Thanks to the range of interchangeable equipment and variety of bags available from Automated Packaging Systems, many companies have brought their packaging operations back in-house after previously outsourcing their requirements.

JBS Hardware of Workshop, a hardware packaging and trading company, traditionally used a team of outworkers to bag its products, predominantly a range of nails and screws and associated products in varying sizes. This created a number of logistical problems, as five transit vans were required to move the material between the workers and their warehouse each day.

Each outworker required an individually collated kit of items needed to produce the finished pack. This kit comprised of the items to be packaged, the plastic packaging itself, and a uniquely pre-printed header card which had to be stapled to the bag. Because of the time involved in preparing and delivering the kit, packaging and returning the material to the warehouse, it meant that the company had to maintain large stocks of finished products in the warehouse to satisfy the needs of their customers, mainly large DIY outlets.

JBS consulted Automated Packaging Systems and following a demonstration of the Excel and Precision bagging system, moved the packaging process in-house giving them much greater flexibility than previously.

By using specialty designed Autobags in five different sizes, all incorporating in-built headers, JBS can package all their materials simply and with little waste, while the Autobag systems allow rapid changeover of bags giving minimum packaging downtime. As well as making savings in terms of cost and time, APS' "print-n-pack" system means the bags are now overprinted in-line during the bagging process with variable text such as barcode, quantity, description and product code. This had reduced JBS' material costs even further, as the need for a separate printed header card has been eliminated.

Robin Miller of JBS Hardware said: *"It was a customer focused business decision and good management practise to develop this state-of-the-art packaging operation. We now have 11 Autobag Excel/Precision systems working seven days a week, two shifts a day; and part of an ongoing process of continual improvement is to integrate the autobaggers with state of the art weighing and counting automation to further improve product quality and packaging rates. We have improved our output volume from around 120,000 per week up to a minimum of 500,000 per week depending on product mix and estimate that payback time has been less than six months. As well as evident savings in*