Solutions

Issue 76

EMP TECHNICAL GROUP

Automated Label Applicator

Challenge: A pharmaceutical company wanted to find a way to semi-automate their labeling process, but didn't know where to begin.

Solution: EMP collaborated with CTM Labeling Systems to design and build an automated labeling system using CTM technology, Banner sensors, and EMP engineering.

Story: A few months back, a customer came to EMP with the hope of reinventing their labeling system workflow. In that same inquiry, they were wanting to find a way to minimize hand to pharmaceutical vial contact due to the hazardous nature of the product inside the vials, only using tongs/tweezers when carrying them. When you try to apply a label to a vial that you can't touch, it's becomes a fairly difficult task. EMP engineers went in to assess and came up with the solution of using CTM Labeling Systems as a third party to help design and build a conveyor belt system that would autonomously apply labels using a 3600a CTM System. From there EMP finished the job, crafting a Banner sensor system at the exit of production that would safely drop these vials (one at a time without heavy impact) into a special container specifically designed for handling the hazardous material. To operate this task, EMP built a PLC to program and control the Banner sensor, leaving little effort for the customer. After a few weeks of discovery and trial, the customer is happier than ever to have a system that can not only apply labels without assistance, but speed up their production safety, and increase their efficiency.