



Case Study Macsween



Background

Macsween is an Edinburgh based third generation family business producing haggis products, supplying the UK's supermarkets, including Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer, wholesalers and online customers. To grow its consumer base, Macsween developed a 'Delicious Everyday' range to offer a variety of haggis based delicacies, including black pudding and vegetarian options, to appeal to non-Scottish customers.

Scenario

Due to the natural casing of the original haggis line it was difficult to automate the packing operation as the sizes differed greatly. However, the packaging of the new 'Delicious Everyday' range was standardised allowing Macsween to look into automating the packing line.

Solution

Murray Packaging, Endoline's Scottish distributor, installed two packing lines within the Macsween factory as a 'cruciform' system, with three conveyors running in parallel, due to the restricted space. Two Endoline power roller conveyors were installed at the start of each packing line where a manual worker puts the packaged product onto these once it has been run through a chub labeller. Each of the packing lines has an elevated conveyor which runs the product from the power roller to a packing station where four manual packers are ready to pack the products into a formed box. A single, fully automatic 248 case erector feeds BOTH of these packing lines and formed cases are transported to the packing stations via a conveyor running above the packing stations. A control system was integrated into the conveyor to accumulate and control the in-feed of the empty boxes to work in tandem with the pace of the manual operators so as each box is removed from the line another is moved along ensuring a constant smooth flow. Once the packers have filled the case with the desired quantity of product, either 6 or 8, the full case is then placed by the packer onto a third power roller conveyor, which runs parallel with the packing station, to be sealed by one of two fully automatic Endoline 602 case sealers.

Results

-  200% increase in output
-  Customised automated packing line in compact space
-  40,000 cases output per day

"Murray Packaging was our first point of call as we have worked with Ian Murray in the past and he has the ability to take on board what we want to achieve and offer solutions. Also Endoline make the best kit and are British made. Automating this process has not only boosted our output but given us the scope to deal with future demand." James Macsween, MD of Macsween

