CASE STUDY

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Faller increased productivity by more than 15 % through networking

Traditional manufacturer optimizes quality assurance, efficiency and tracking capability

The factory at Alfred Faller produces premium-quality jams using traditional methods. Given not least the increasingly stringent requirements, Faller made the decision to implement a comprehensive new quality management system.

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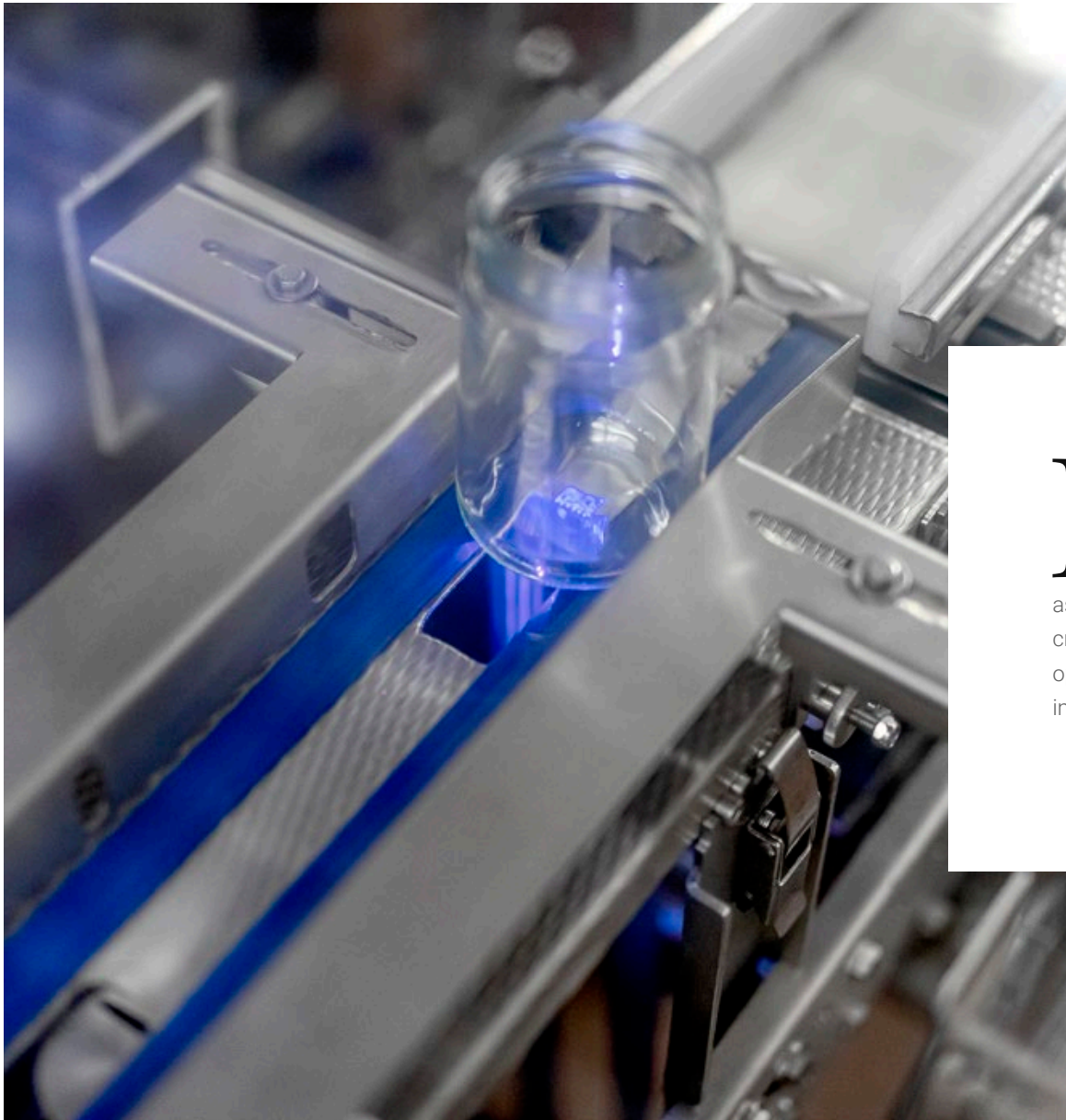
F aller's premium quality jams are stirred by hand in copper pots using traditional production methods. However, manual processes are less welcome at Faller in other areas. These include documentation of production data or samples of quality assurance checks taken by hand. Due to greater competition and ever-increasing standards - essentially HACCP - Faller sought out to achieve optimized efficiency and tracking capabilities. As such, the company implemented a comprehensive new quality management system.

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COMPANY

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Alfred Faller Factory

Konfitürenmanufaktur Alfred Faller GmbH is based in Utzenfeld/Schwarzwald and is a third-generation family business. Faller uses traditional production methods and uses large quantities of fruit from the neighboring Kaiserstuhl and Markgräflerland regions.

Founded in 1913

80+ staff

based in Utzenfeld, Germany

More information at:
www.fallerkonfitueren.de

„The old system was time-consuming and prone to errors. We wanted the best possible levels of data transparency while achieving 75 to 80 % machine utilization through networking and digitalization."

Thomas Kessler
IT Manager, Alfred Faller GmbH

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CHALLENGE

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Unique IDs and automatic separation

The request was for implementation of a hardware and software solution that could be networked with the existing QM system. Tracking capability, transparency and productivity were to be optimized, while at the same time the capability to reliably monitor packaging requirements. Because Faller operates one production line for jars and another for cans, there is a need for customized solutions to be developed and implemented accordingly.

Stringent packaging requirements

The jars that Faller fills have different tare weights that have to be documented individually per jar as part of packaging requirements. Another challenge is that the glass surfaces are so refined such that the printing ink does not adhere sufficiently to them. Whether it's a jar or a can, packaging with illegible code must be detected and discarded.

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SOLUTION

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A customized, seamlessly networked solution

Documentation compliant with packaging requirements receive a serial barcode ID when the jars are guided onto the production line. A suitable printing process was found for the processed glass surfaces so that this printout securely remains in place and also does not become illegible after the jars are washed in a later step. The printed code is scanned as part of testing, the empty jar is weighed on a checkweigher and the results are noted in a separate database.

Automatic rejection in the case of errors

After blowing out, the jars are filled. A metal detector checks them for any contamination and a rejection system removes contaminated products. Uncontaminated jars are sealed. The barcode is then scanned on a second checkweigher - if illegible, the jar is automatically rejected. If the code is legible then the database provides the appropriate barcode ID along with the tare weight. The check-

weigher obtains the order number, item, weight of the lid and the nominal fill weight from the QM system. The individual jar tare weight is the basis for precise testing of the nominal fill weight that complies with prepack regulations. Any overweight and underweight jars are discarded. The BRAIN2 Capture app from Bizerba transfers the data to the QM system.

All the data each individual jar

A retroreflective sensor activates the scanner on the checkweigher on the production line for cans. As the cans can turn on the conveyors, it provides four scanners with a full view of the codes printed on the sides. Illegible cans are discarded. If the code is legible then the QM system provides the relevant order and item number. The ID is transferred to the QM system with the order number, article number and weight.

The Bizerba solution has

- checkweighers to determine tare and gross weights Metal detector and rejection systems
- Networking with the QM system via BRAIN2 and BRAIN2Capture
- Integration of printers and scanners to print and read barcode IDs on the jars and cans

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ADVANTAGES

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Transparency and product safety - one package at a time

Automation and networking means Faller does not just have the highest possible levels of transparency and tracking capability - productivity has increased by 15 per cent. Automatic rejection of containers with metal as a contaminant and illegible codes mean time-consuming manual processes are no longer required.

Protected against product recalls
At the same time, thanks to automation, the company is at far less risk of product recalls due to faulty products, because manual processes and human errors are minimized, effectively preventing the company image from being adversely affected in the eyes of retailers and end consumers, which is a costly consequence of product recalls. Even if a faulty batch is delivered, Faller has all the necessary data required so that recalls are focused only on the actual recipient of the products in question. This significantly limits any potential risk to the company image.

BIZERBA

Zahlen, bitte.

1600
Jams produced annually

3 Generations
Family-owned

15 %
Increase in productivity

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" From every single SKU, we now know what it contains, where it is located in the process, or where it was delivered to. If necessary, recalls can be tracked. This is a key issue for retailers."

Thomas Kessler

IT Manager, Alfred Faller GmbH

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