

Monthly Messenger

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Improve Fill Rates for Snack Applications with Volumetric Cup Fillers from Spee-Dee

February is National Snack Food Month. According to the Snack Food Association (SFA), we're a snacking nation, with over \$60 billion in snack sales annually. Snack foods are a serious business, but some food companies feel the current packaging options available to them are restrictive, labor intensive and expensive. Spee-Dee is trying to change that perspective with more accommodating, dependable and accurate options.

Spee-Dee cup fillers, with their low-maintenance Servo drive, can help snack food producers reach up to 150 fills per minute. With its simple design, a dependable drive system and fast cup changeovers; companies can boost the output and reduce the operating costs of their rice, bean, candy, pet food or snack application. Spee-Dee cup fillers can quickly accommodate the density and weight standards of different products and are able to accurately fill containers up to 20 pounds.

Spee-Dee was a pioneer in developing servo drive cup fillers. Nearly 20 years later, we are still finding ways to use our cup fillers to help our customers solve new packaging challenges. Recently, a popcorn producer was looking for a better way to fill three kinds of popcorn into a single tin. It had a three-part divider that separated the three flavors of popcorn, which were plain, cheese and caramel. The problem was this. The divider kept shifting, which prevented a clean and efficient fill. The producer realized that the caramel corn was heavier than the other two, and the force from its fill was shifting the divider.

To solve the issue, we developed a three-funnel system that synced up with the specs of the container perfectly. Then, we adjusted the timing of the three fills. By delaying the fill of the caramel corn by a micro-second, the other two lighter sections were able to secure the foundation of their base, which prevented any shifting when the caramel corn was filled. The combination of customer-centric engineering and practical ingenuity helped this customer achieve record fill rates. For them, snacking smarter started with a call to Spee-Dee.

DID YOU KNOW?

The king of snacks is the potato chip. The average American eats over four pounds of potato chips every year. However, this doesn't mean the combination scale machines used to fill chip bags are the right choice for other snack foods like nuts, pretzel nuggets or cheese balls. If your snack is solid, dry and round... a volumetric cup filler may be the best choice for that packaging application.

Spee-Dee's advanced volumetric cup system lets you fill by volume and by weight! If you have a product that fluctuates by density (like nuts, trail mix or snack mix), you don't need to invest in a costly and massive combination scale. The advanced volumetric filler offers a simpler, more operator friendly system with a smaller footprint but equally robust controls. Priced at half the cost of a combination scale, this machine reduces product changeover times from hours to minutes... even when addressing potential allergen and contamination issues.

Spee-Dee produced its first cup filler in 1981. Since that time, we have produced more than 6,000 cup fillers for more than 1,000 food, pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and chemical companies. CPG companies, contract packagers and OEMs get fast, clean and safe equipment for the best filling system available.

You can boost line efficiency with more accurate filling and faster cup changeovers. Learn how by visiting Spee-Dee at PACK EXPO East, booth 1044, February 27-March 1, 2017.