LEADING FOOD MANUFACTURER
Gallon Can Vision System

Client: Confidential
Location: North America
Market(s) Served: Food processing

PROFILE

- Project Management
- Automation
- Engineering

SERVICES

The existing final product packaging process for a leading food manufacturer is performed in a Clean Pressure Vessel for Human Occupancy.

The cans were required to go through an airlock prior to entering the process, upstream of the airlock is the depalletizer. The depalletizer operator visually inspected the cans, but the inspections were not repeatable and largely depended on the operator's judgement. Cans that were out of quality specifications, i.e. out of round and knockdown flanges, were causing jams at the seamer, resulting in lost production.

EAD worked with the client and vendors to specify and design the resulting vision inspection system. The system was a CA-HX200M Keyence Camera with a light ring; the control panel included a HMI with real-time images. The reject mechanisms used were air nozzles triggered by the output of the camera. This method was chosen so any false rejects wouldn't be damaged by an actuated arm. The cans were discharged onto a can rail to minimize body damage and to reduce the system's footprint.

The final system run rate was set to 100 cans per minute with the ability to scale up to 500 cans per minute for future growth.

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