

Recycling CASE STORY

Läser AG, Gontenschwil (Switzerland)

Extraction technology disposes plastic strips in label production

Läser AG produces labels from flexible material on a slitter rewriter. For the disposal of the edge trim and the intermediate cuts, the concept of Hunkeler Systeme AG was convincing.

Läser AG in Gontenschwil converts labels on a new highly automated slitter rewriter. Hunkeler Systeme AG was commissioned with the system design for the disposal of the edge trim and the intermediate cuts.

Extraction unit HKU 4500 ensures stable process

Five to fifteen millimetre wide plastic strips have to be shredded at a web speed of at least 600 metres per minute and disposed of via pipelines. A compact suction unit of the HKU 4500 series ensures a stable process with constant

suction power. In the cutting unit, the plastic strips are shredded to a defined length. Ring ionisers neutralise the static electricity on the shredded strip and in turn ensure continuous transport of the material to the separator.

Dr. Andreas Hitzler manages the business of Läser AG. The concept of Hunkeler Systeme AG convinced him. „The company has proven that it can also handle the demanding disposal of plastic materials,“ he states.



The slitter rewriter operates at a web speed of 600 metres per minute. The plastic strips are shredded in a cutter (cylindrical elements in the lower area) and disposed of via the pipelines.



Safe production in non-stop operation

In addition to the cutting unit, which shreds the plastic strips to a defined length, the ring ionisers and the HKU 4500 compact extraction unit are crucial for a smooth production process.

The ring ionisers neutralise the static load of the plastic particles. They prevent the particles from sticking to the walls of the separator.

In the baler, the plastic waste is compacted into bags, while filters in the HKU 4500 extraction unit separate the transport air from possible dust particles. The extraction works according to the negative pressure principle. Due to the suction effect, dust remains trapped in the ducts and cannot escape into the environment. The cleaned transport air is exhausted into the production premises and the dust is collected in containers. The filling of two containers ensures non-stop production.

The HKU 4500 works economically and efficiently. Via a frequency converter, the system only consumes as much electrical energy as is required to dispose of the quantities produced.

A solid basis of trust

„We depend on production technology that works absolutely reliably,“ says Dr. Andreas Hitzler. Because Läser AG’s customers are demanding. For their part, they expect their orders to be delivered on the agreed date. During the evaluation, Hunkeler Systeme AG was able to point to reference systems that are being used successfully by well-known producers of flexible packaging. With this proof of quality and experience, a solid basis of trust was created.

Dr. Andreas Hitzler and his team also felt safe with Hunkeler Systeme AG because they knew they would have a powerful service team at their side. This quality has also been known to Läser AG for many years; on a machine for die-cutting labels and on a guillotine, the waste is disposed of using extraction technology from Hunkeler Systeme AG. „We not only knew the reliability of the technology. We also knew what we could count on in terms of service and support,“ says Dr. Andreas Hitzler.



From commercial enterprise to industrial production

Läser AG is one of the leading packaging producers in Switzerland. It serves companies in the food, metal, tobacco, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. In addition to packaging made of cardboard, shrink sleeves or sealable and peelable lids (mainly for food), one focus is on the production of labels for a wide variety of applications.

The beginning of label production dates back to 1952, when the brothers Kurt and Heinrich Läser founded their company. The initial commercial enterprise has developed into an industrially producing company with currently one hundred employees. Läser AG has remained in family hands until today, with Jürg Läser as owner and chairman of the board of directors.