



UNI-Q

UNI-Q is a new approach designed to generate uniform quality and performance standards that meet or exceed customers' expectations. We can achieve this by integrating quality-related functions and processes all the way down the production line. UNI-Q monitors and assesses all quality-enhancement measures at every stage of the production process. The result for our customers: higher standards at a lower cost.

The rationale

Research conducted at several canmaking plants has shown that the direct and indirect cost of quality shortfalls is significantly higher than the cost of implementing UNI-Q.

Basically, production flaws can be broken down into two types: internal and external. Internal flaws and the resulting cost occur when products fail to reach our own exacting quality standards but the flaws are detected before products are shipped to the customer.

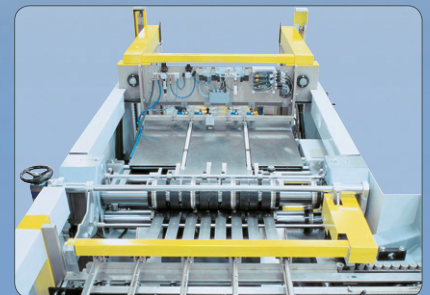
External flaws and related costs occur when cans fail to reach the requisite quality standards but shortfalls are not detected until after the customer receives the item. State-of-the-art monitoring technology enables us to minimize the portion of external failure costs.

Significant factors

Sources of error in the production process can be attributed mainly to two factors: mechanical and human.

Machine factors

All the factors that increase contact resistance during the welding process have to be taken into consideration. These include blank geometry, overlap, heat symmetry, the roller head groove, current settings, cleanliness, the degree of wear in individual parts, coating setups, etc.



Human factors

Today, we can supply technology, particularly software, that permits canmakers to reduce the significance of the human factor. The availability of a wide range of machines and their options can be structured in two UNI-Q levels.

| | | Q1 | Q2 |
|-----------------------------------|--|----|----|
| Slitter | State of the technology slitter | ● | ● |
| Body Blank Transfer System | Automatic blank feeding from slitter to welder | | ● |
| Welder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICONTROL (automatic welding current setup) • PULSAR • UNITOOL • ARS adaptive rounding system • Oxide-free welded seam • SWM-2 welding monitor with energy channel • Additional temperature monitor channel | ● | ● |
| Coating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New SOUCOAT system • SPM-2 powder monitor for new SOUCOAT system • Tin flow monitor | | ● |
| Test Equipment Bodyline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital bodyblank measuring • Welding seam tester • Package to seam protection with powder • PBT powder beading tester to powder seam protection • PWB precision weight balance to powder seam protection • Enamel rater, basic station | ● | ● |
| Maintenance | • Service interval: six-monthly | | ● |

UNI-Q represents a major step forward in quality assurance for canmakers and their customers. The improvement in product quality, the reduced cost and the boost to the producer's reputation amount to an investment no canmaker can afford to be without.

